MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1983

Libyan-Soviet Relations

Libya and the Soviet Union have "agreed in principle" to sign a bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation, according to a joint communique issued in Moscow and Libya at the end of Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's visit to the Soviet Union. The communique, carried by Tripoli radio and TASS, said Jallud held "important and intensive" talks with Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Tikhonov and noted that separate discussions were held between Libyan Armed Forces Commander Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov and between Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. Both sides affirmed their determination to deepen bilateral relations and stressed the importance of continuing regular personal contacts between Libyan and Soviet leaders, the communique added. On behalf of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Maj Jallud invited Tikhonov and CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov to visit Libya.

Expressing "high appreciation" for each other's role in world affairs, the Soviet Union and Libya described U.S. plans to deploy medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe as a danger not only to Europe but also to the Mediterranean and Arab regions. The two sides denounced Israel and the "escalating American military presence and interference" in the Middle East and condemned the policy of "capitulation and separatist solutions" regarding the Palestine problem. The Soviet Union also condemned U.S. "provocations" against Libya and expressed support for and solidarity with Libya's right to defend its land, airspace, and territorial waters.

Libyan Atomic Energy Secretary 'Abd al-Qa'ud participated in the talks on bilateral economic and technical cooperation, according to TASS.

King Husayn in London; Peace Process

The situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories is "extremely dangerous" and little time remains before Israeli settlement activity creates "formidable obstacles" in the path of any possible progress toward peace, Jordanian King Husayn warned at a 19 March press conference in London broadcast by Amman television. Responding to a question about the Reagan plan, Husayn said the Arab side will know exactly where it stands on this issue "within a matter of days." In his remarks, which followed talks between the Arab League delegation and British officials, King Husayn praised the "just and constructive" attitude of Britain and European countries but said U.S. credibility regarding both Lebanon and the occupied territories is passing through a "difficult test." Noting that Israel has responded to the Reagan plan by intensifying settlement activity and by "acts of repression," Husayn said Israel has embarked on a program aimed at finally absorbing the occupied territories.

On inter-Arab affairs, Husayn said Egypt's relations with other Arab countries are already close and will inevitably improve swiftly despite the lack of formal relations between Egypt and most Arab states. Husayn noted that he had visited Egypt twice in the past when Jordan had no diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Apart from his talks with British officials, Husayn also met separately in London with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to Amman television and radio reports.

Citing a senior figure in Husyan's entourage, the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported that Husayn will shortly announce his willingness to join peace talks on condition that the United States brings about a halt to Israeli settlement activity. Without

knowing that his interlocutor was Israeli, the Arab official told the paper's correspondent that Jordan's tactics constitue a refusal to join the negotiations couched in a positive form. Meanwhile, an Amman radio commentary on Husayn's London press conference stressed that Jordan cannot be held responsible for the loss of time from which Israel is benefiting. Earlier, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres called on both King Husayn and the Israeli Government to enter peace negotiations without preconditions, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported.

Lebanon

Lebanon Negotiations -- After Habib's talks with the Israeli foreign and defense ministers in Jerusalem on 20 March, several participants said progress was achieved although much work remains to be done, Jerusalem radio reported. Noting that the Israeli side presented Habib with Israel's response to the latest U.S. proposals, Jerusalem television said the Israeli position was formulated during lengthy ministerial consultations following a Cabinet meeting in which most ministers accepted Prime Miniser Menahem Begin's view that the U.S. proposals can serve as a basis for a settlement and definitely merit discussion.

After returning to Beirut and briefing President Amin al-Jumayyil on his visit to the United States, former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam declared that he is more optimistic than before about the future of the situation in Lebanon, Beirut radio reported.

The Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. talks resumed in Netanya on 21 March with Lebanon and the United States submitting new proposals for security arrangements in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Security Situation -- Responding to U.S. Marine Colonel James Meade's accusations that the IDF's "lack of fire discipline" is endangering civilians and marines near Beirut, the IDF spokesman said Israel is already used to "baseless charges" by the Marines. He stressed that Israeli patrols do not open fire in populated areas and that all their shooting is "controlled fire," according to Jerusalem radio. The IDF spokesman also discounted Lebanese claims that five civilians were killed last month by indiscriminate IDF fire, saying that the IDF knows nothing of any Lebanese civilian casualties caused by Israeli fire. Earlier, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens called for measures to counteract the present "unsatisfactory" liaison arrangements between the IDF and the Marines, according to an Israeli Defense Ministry announcement carried by ITIM.

Jerusalem radio said an IDF soldier was wounded by gunfire shoutheast of Beirut on 18 March. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio claimed that five Israelis were killed in the attack.

PLO Affairs

Khalil al-Wazir on POW's -- The PLO is ready to release and return all Israeli POW's if Israel announces its readiness to treat all Palestinian detainees as prisoners of war, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced in an interview broadcast by Amman television's Hebrew service on 19 March. He claimed that the Israelis have killed some 40 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Ansar camp and accused the Israelis of withholding information about hundreds of missing Palestinians. Providing further details of the deaths of two Israeli prisoners, Al-Wazir said that after the two Israelis were captured by two Palestinians and a Lebanese sympathizer, all five men were killed when an Israeli tank fired at their car passing through the Monteverdi area of East Beirut on 15 December.

Israeli Reaction -- The IDF spokesman confirmed that two "terrorists" and one Lebanese were killed in a mid-February incident in Monteverdi but denied that Israelis were hit

in it, Jerusalem television reported. Regarding Al-Wazir's condition for the release of the eight Israeli prisoners, Israel's attorney general has already declared that Israel cannot recognize "terrorists" as prisoners of war, the television added.

PLO Executive Committee Decisions -- The PLO Executive Committee has resolved to implement the military unity of the Palestinian resistance within the framework of the Palestinian Liberation Army, according to a KUNA report on the outcome of the 3-day Executive Committee meeting in Tunis which ended on 20 March. The committee also adopted decisions to confront Israel's settlement policy and decided to send memoranda on this issue and on Israeli plans against Al-Aqsa Mosque to the UN Security Council and the Arab League's Jerusalem Committee, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported earlier. Meanwhile, a PLO spolesman in Tunis announced that the PLO strongly condemns the "premeditated Israeli aggression" against U.S. and Italian multinational force soldiers in Lebanon, Tunis radio reported.

Soviet Warning to Israel

The Soviet Union has warned Israel through the United States not to attack the modern missiles stationed in Syria, according to Jerusalem radio. A senior Soviet official said that if Israel does attack the missiles the Soviet Union has a reaction plan, the radio reported citing the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jerusalem Committee Meeting -- An emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of Morocco's King Hassan II will be held on 3 April in Morocco to discuss the "grave situation" resulting from repeated attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, SPA announced on 19 March.

Algerian-Tunisian Relations -- Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba signed a friendship treaty and a border demarcation agreement during Bendjedid's 3-day visit to Tunisia, Algiers radio reported citing an Algerian-Tunisian joint communique issued on 20 March. The two sides agreed to intensify meetings between officials and technical experts and stressed the importance of joint projects to develop the border area and turn it inot a "bridge that unites the interests of the two countries."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Two Iraqi naval vessels were destroyed during an Iranian joint naval and Air Force operation in the Persian Gulf, according to a 19 March Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. In another development French Deputy Defense Minister Jean Martre affirmed that France and Iraq recently signed an agreement according to which France will supply Baghdad with "about 69 planes of the Super Entendard type and Exocet missiles," the Saudi paper AL-BILAD disclosed on 16 March.

Pakistan

Martial law authorities imposed a curfew in the Liaquatabad area as troops were called in to control sectarian rioting between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims on 19 March during which 2 people were killed and 144 were arrested, according to AFP and Karachi radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDS MEETING IN TUNIS

LD201512 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 20 Mar (KUNA) -- The PLO Executive Committee endorsed here today implementation of the military unity of Palestinian resistance units within the framework of the Palestinian National Liberation Army. It also underlined the PLO's concern to consolidate its relations with all Arab countries in the interest of the Arab struggle in confronting constant Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

A statement issued by the committee at the end of its 3-day meeting under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat said that the situation inside and outside occupied Palestine was fully discussed, studied, and analyzed. In light of this, the committee adopted practical resolutions on consolidating internal Palestinian steadfastness. It also decided to make a move at Arab level in order to enable work and residence facilities for Palestinians in Arab countries, particularly Lebanon. The statement added that the committee also adopted resolutions on implementing the resolutions adopted by the Algiers meeting of the PNC, primarily on consolidating national unity within the PLO framework, and in particular military unity within the framework of the Palestinian National Liberation Army.

In the sphere of Palestinian-Arab relations, the statement said that the Executive Committee reasserted the PLO's concern to consolidate its relations with all Arab states in the interest of the Arab struggle in confronting constant Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. Proceeding from this, the committee decided to provide an atmosphere that would enable the Arab states to act within the framework of Arab solidarity and put an end to the splits and divisions now prevailing among the Arab regimes. These divisions give the Zionist enemy the best circumstances for continuing his aggression, his occupation of, and his settlement in the Arab and Palestinian territories.

The committee saluted the steadfast masses in the occupied territories and their struggle against Israeli occupation. It also saluted the Nonaligned Movement, which unanimously supported the PLO in its just struggle to realize the established rights of the Palestinian Arab people, first and foremost the right to return, the right of self-determination, and to set up its independent state under the PLO.

The statement also said that the committee discussed a number of administrative, financial, and organizational issues and adopted resolutions accordingly and set up followup committees to implement them.

A well-informed Palestinian source told KUNA that members of the Executive Committee agreed to keep their previous posts without change.

Baghdad VOP Report

JN201720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis -- The PLO Executive Committee has concluded the special session it held under the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The meetings were devoted to discussing the serious situation in the occupied homeland. The special session of the Executive Committee issued the following statement:

In its first special session since the 16th PNC conference, the PLO Executive Committee heard reports by the various specialized organs which dealt in detail with the explosive political, economic, and social situation in the occupied territory. The committee also heard other reports on the Zionist settlement program, which the government of the terrorist Menahem Begin is implementing systematically and speedily.

The committee made a detailed review of the premeditated Israel attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque, when some 45 Zionists, including several regular soldiers, stormed Al-Aqsa, desecrated its holy grounds, and declared that their objective was to destroy the mosque and build the temple.

The committee considered the Palestinian masses' firm and all-out resistance to the settlement onslaught and the repeated aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque and other places of worship in the occupied Palestinian towns. The committee hailed the general popular uprising against settlement and occupation and decided to bolster this popular steadfastness with all forms of support. The Executive Committee was entrusted to implement the decisions on backing this steadfastness immediately.

The Executive Committee also decided to draft two memos on the grave situation in the occupied territory. The first memo, which will be addressed to the UN Security Council, will explain the gravity of the Zionist settlement program being implemented by the government of the Zionist enemy. The second memo, which will be addressed to the Jerusalem Committee, will explain enemy plans to destroy the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Executive Committee adopted several other decisions to confront the settlement wave in the occupied territory. The committee hailed the fighters in the occupied territory and Lebanon who are courageously carrying out heroic military operations against the occupation forces.

The PLO Executive Committee is scheduled to continue its meetings today to discuss other items on its agenda.

Heads of Bodies Renamed

JN181946 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 18 Mar (INA) -- During its meeting here last night under its Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee defined the forthcoming Palestinian movement in light of the recent PNC resolutions. The committee authorized Yasir 'Arafat to have a free hand in dealing with the Palestinian cause within the framework of international legitimacy.

It was reported that the previous distribution of tasks within the committee has been retained. Yasir 'Arafat retained his post as head of the Military Department, Faruq Qaddumi as head of the Political Department, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh as head of the Information Department, Hanna Nasir as head of the Palestine National Fund, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi as head of the Economic Department, Jamal as-Surani as head of the Social Affairs Department, and Talal Naji as head of the Education Department.

It is noteworthy that this is the first PLO Executive Committee meeting since the conclusion of the PNC session at the end of last month.

POW Issue Discussed

JN190658 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Well-informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have stated that the exchange of prisoners between Israel and the PLO was discussed by the PLO Excecutive Committee yesterday. The Executive Committee, chaired by 'Arafat, studied reports by the International Red Cross Committee and by some other mediators, such as Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, on the procedures that must be taken in this respect.

The Palestinian sources said that the PLO Executive Committee adopted the necessary measures. The sources did not give any further details.

PLO'S AL-WAZIR ON DEATHS OF ISRAELI POW'S

JN191844 Amman Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1740 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Interview in Arabic with Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, identified by nom de guerre Abu Jihad, by Jordan television announcer Harun al-Mahamid in Amman on 19 March 1983 -- videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Brother Abu Jihad, good evening. Today is Saturday, 19 March. Two days have passed since the reports about two Israeli prisoners being killed by fire from an Israeli roadblock. This incident was the result of the obstinacy of the government of Begin, Begin who does not empathize with Palestinian or Israeli mothers. How did the incident take place? Were the two prisoners among the eight?

[Answer] We announced the deaths of two Israeli prisoners, two soldiers, but did not specify the place. Many people in Israel got excited, believing that the two prisoners were among the eight. The Israeli authorities knew exactly what we meant when we announced that two Israelis were killed in an operation. It was the Israelis who specified the time and place.

We say: Yes, the operation took place in the Monteverdi area on 15 December, when three Palestinian fighters were killed, including a Lebanese fighter called Mikha'il Ja'ja'. The latter, who was linked with the Phalangists, cooperated with the two martyrs Nabil Biqa'i and Jamal Biqa'i in overcoming the two Israeli soldiers. Ja'ja' and his two colleagues were transporting the two prisoners by car through the Monteverdi area. While they were passing through the checkpoint, a tank opened fire on the car. The three fighters and the two Israeli soldiers in the car were killed.

Of course, General Natif said that the three killed were Palestinians, but he did not mention the other half of the truth -- that the dead included two Israeli soldiers. We accuse the Israeli authorities of showing no concern for their soldiers by carrying out this operation. We leave this to the authorities to consider and discuss such issues in making a thorough investigation. Our reports are facts. We do not envelop these facts in incorrect data. We announced this honestly.

[Question] Brother Abu Jihad, you have addressed an invitation through Jordan television to the mothers of the Israeli POW's to visit their sons. As you noticed from what was broadcast on Israeli television yesterday, the Israeli mothers are still eager to respond to this invitation. What do you say to them?

[Answer] First of all, we saw how mothers felt yesterday. They got excited, believing the two soldiers were among the eight prisoners. For those who said that we play on mothers' feelings, we say: We do not play on mothers' feelings. We respect mothers' feelings. But what do we say about the policy of the Israeli leadership, which is searing the feelings of hundreds and thousands of Palestinian mothers? It is searing at their feelings. What do we say to the Palestinian or Lebanese mother whose son was killed? Some 40 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners were killed in Ansar camp, as everyone knows. So far, 40 have been killed in Ansar camp in southern Lebanon.

Let us now consider what Robert Fensk said in TIME magazine. He mentioned a horrifying fact which the entire Israeli society must also know. Robert Fensk said Palestinians and Lebanese are being killed while they are tied up with nylon cords. This is outright murder of detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps. What will their mothers' feelings be? Mothers were fired on in a Sidon demonstration, wounding seven. Seven of the mothers of these prisoners were wounded by the bullets of the Israeli army under orders from the Israeli leadership. What do we say to these mothers? The Israeli authorities are burning the feelings of these mothers. We respect the feelings of mothers and say to those who are concerned about their sons that Israeli policy and the Israeli leadership, which does not want an immediate solution, are responsible. We say that we are ready, as we already stated, to receive these mothers if they want to visit their sons at any time, but the Israeli authorities are preventing them.

[Question] Sir, the International Red Cross said it had not yet been able to visit two of the eight prisoners.

[Answer] The reason is clear and well known. We have requested from the Israeli authorities a list of the prisoners in Ansar prison. They gave us a list of about 5,400 prisoners. According to our information, there are others missing. We asked them to give us a list of the missing. First, they denied the existence of any missing persons. After some pressure, we gave them a list of 150 missing persons. After a short while, they accounted for 125 of those missing. They said some of the missing persons are with them and others are in another place. Their response to our list of missing persons means that there are other missing persons in addition to those mentioned in the official list. We believe that there are at least 400 missing persons. The Israeli authorities are not giving us a list of these missing persons and are withholding any information on their whereabouts, whether in 'Atlit, Sarafand, or any of the other Israeli detention camps.

We have also received letters from prisoners in Ansar camp saying that Wing 31 of the camp contains large numbers of Palestinian and Lebanese youths. The Israeli authorities have barred any contact between these youths and the officers in charge of the camp. The authorities have also barred any contact between these youths and the International Red Cross. This is concrete proof that the Israelis are withholding information about other prisoners. Therefore, we say: We want a list of those whom the Israeli authorities have abducted to another place. When this list is supplied, and this can be done directly, everything will proceed normally, and the mothers could visit their sons directly.

[Question] Finally, Brother Abu Jihad, what about the future and what, in your opinion, must be done to keep the prisoners alive?

[Answer] We are concerned and we always respect humanity, but the Israeli leadership has not respected it. What the Palestinian detainees are suffering in all prisons in the occupied territory is known to the Israeli people. Israeli commissions of inquiry have said a great deal about this suffering. Our Palestinian people everywhere in the occupied territory also know about this suffering. Tens of thousands of our people's families suffer daily from the many injustices and the same oppression as the detainees at the hands of the Israeli leadership.

Regarding the future, we are making a new offer. We say: We are ready, directly and without condition, to release all the prisoners with us and to return them directly if the Israeli authorities announce they are ready to treat all detainees of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinians in the prisons as prisoners of war. We say this clearly and frankly. We are ready. They have the answer. Let us see if they will dare make such a decision by which they will respect the rights of man. This is what we say.

SPOKESMAN RAPS 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST U.S., ITALIAN FORCES

LD191746 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, official in charge of Palestinian information, announced today in Tunis that the PLO strongly condemns and denounces the premeditated Israeli aggression against soldiers of the Italian and the American forces in the multinational force in Lebanon that wounded 16 soldiers and officers, some seriously.

He stated that this premeditated aggression exposes the truth about the attitude of Menahem Begin's government toward international efforts aimed at achieving peace in Lebanon. He explained that the Israeli occupation forces are trying by this aggression to obstruct the mission of the international force, to hinder its role, and to prevent it from carrying out the tasks entrusted to it, so that the Israeli forces can continue to occupy Lebanon and tear it apart, nullifying all international efforts aimed at forcing Israeli to withdraw its invading and occupying forces from Lebanon.

He added that the PLO presents its warm and heartfelt condolences to the families of the Italian and American victims and to the injured and calls on the government of the states concerned to (?condemn) this premeditated aggression against the multinational forces. It also calls on world public opinion to expose the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

SPA: JERUSALEM COMMITTEE TO HOLD EMERGENCY MEETING

LD192136 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Jidda, 19 Mar (SPA) -- An emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco is to be held on 3 April in Morocco. Habib Chatti, general secretary of the Islamic Conference Organization, has sent invitations to the foreign ministers of the states on the committee to attend the emergency meeting. During the meeting the grave situation resulting from the repeated attacks against Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and other holy places will be discussed. The meeting will also discuss the committee's intention to adopt measures to halt these attacks and to prepare Arab, Islamic, and world public opinion to find means to preserve these sancturies against Zionist violations.

ADEN VOP: 'ARAFAT INVITED TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA

GF201908 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, yesterday afternoon received an official invitation from Comrade Gustav Husak, secretary general of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, to visit the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. This came in a message from the Czechoslovak leadership delivered to brother leader Abu 'Ammar by the Czechoslovak ambassador in Tunis in the presence of Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of PLO Political Department. The message included the decision by the Czechoslovak leadership to raise the diplomatic status of the PLO to an embassy.

WAFA has learned that it was agreed that brother leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to Czechoslovakia will take place next month.

MENA: PNC'S KAMAL ON EGYPT-PLO 'MISUNDERSTANDING'

NC210637 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- PNC member Sa'id Kamal has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's strategy is aimed at obtaining the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the UN Security Council's approval.

Sa'id Kamal gave an interview to MAY newspaper which will be published in tomorrow's edition.

Commenting on the recent misunderstanding between Egypt and the PLO, Kamal said that he believes that one of the ways of overcoming this misunderstanding will be by not sending a Palestinian or non-Palestinian personality to talk with Egyptian officials concerning relations and how to develop them. In this context Kamal emphasized that the only way for containing the misunderstanding between Egypt and the PLO and for proceeding toward a Palestinian-Egyptian understanding would be "for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's plane to land in the land of Arab Egypt without any need for mediators."

He said that all misunderstandings will then disappear and that Egypt and Palestine will remain one body around which all the Arab countries from the East and West will rally to begin a new phase of real solidarity in the face of the covetous, the invaders, and the aggressors.

In conclusion Sa'id Kamal spoke about the question of forming of a Palestinian givernment-in-exile. He said that the time is favorable for the formation of such a government, which would place the United States and the world before their responsibilities and frustrate the Israeli plan.

MONTE CARLO QUOTES HAWATIMAH BBC INTERVIEW

JN201428 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] In an interview with a BBC correspondent in Damascus, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, talked about the current situation and new developments in the Middle East.

Asked about King Husayn's participation in the peace negotiations, Hawatimah said that King Husayn wanted to obtain a Palestinian and Arab cover so that he could join the negotiations on the basis of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan. However, he added, the recent PNC resolutions shattered his hopes of obtaining any authorization. He said that King Husayn must respect and abide by the Arab summit resolutions.

On the continuation of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Nayif Hawatimah said: Dialogue will continue to revolve in a vicious circle as far as the Palestinian representation is concerned.

INA: PLO UN REPRESENTATIVE RAPS SYRIAN REGIME

JN191358 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Mar (INA) -- Zudhi at-Tarazi, the PLO representative at the United Nations, has asserted that Hafiz al-Asad's regime is readying itself to deal a strong blow to the Palestinian resistance. Addressing a recent seminar held at the tourist club in Abu Dhabi, At-Tarazi said that the recent Tripoli events were a prologue to dealing a strong blow to the resistance, and specifically to Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. He added that the Syrian regime is primarily aiming at undermining Palestinian unity, containing the Palestinian resistance, and exploiting the Palestinian card.

KUWAIT

AL-HADAF ON LIBYAN 'ADVENTURE' AGAINST SUDAN

GF191432 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 18 Mar 83 p 1

[AL-HADAF dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] AL-HADAF has learned from responsible Egyptian sources that the organs of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have launched a new adventure against Egypt and Sudan. At the time when Ahmad Qadhdhaf ad-Dam, cousin of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was in Cairo holding negotiations with the Egyptian officials on normalization of relations between Cairo and Tripoli, Egyptian intelligence was observing the movement of a Libyan ship that entered the Suez Canal and paid the fees for crossing from north to south. The ship was put under observation by Egyptian security from the moment it crossed, and this continued until it disembarked at Port Sudan where it was met by Sudanese security men.

When the ship was searched by the Sudanese authorities, large quantities of weapons and explosives were found aboard. These weapons and explosives were dispatched to Sudan in order to carry out subversive actions in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan.

It should be recalled that the Libyan officials have not stopped their visits to Cairo during the past 6 months for the purpose of reestablishing relations and activating travel movement and trade between the two countries, but the ship incident stopped these contacts and froze them for the time being. Cairo refused to receive a Libyan official who arrived last week to explain matters to the Egyptian leadership.

SAUDI ARABIA

SPA CITES PRINCE SA'UD, PYM ON ARAB LEAGUE TALKS

LD182021 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] London, March 18 (SPA) -- British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym held a series of separate meetings here tonight with a number of Arab foreign ministers, currently on a visit to London.

He conferred with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the Palestine problem and bilateral relations.

Later he met with Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta, Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim.

Discussions at the meetings covered the Middle East situation, the Palestine problem and the prospects of speeding up withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr Boucetta and Mr Khaddam are members of the Arab follow-up committee, while Dr Salim arrived here earlier in the day from Washington as part of a European tour related to the situation in Lebanon.

In a press statement after the meeting, Prince Sa'ud said discussions with British Premier Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other leaders concentrated on the Fes summit resolutions.

"As a member of the Arab delegation, I am pleased with the outcome of these talks during which we made clear our interest in the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region," he added.

The Saudi foreign minister also said Arab and British views in this connection were identical, adding that he discussed bilateral relations with Mr Pym.

Prince Sa'ud announced that the British foreign secretary had agreed to visit the Kingdom, saying "we shall be pleased to receive him in the near future." On the other hand, Mr Pym expressed satisfaction with receiving the unified Arab delegation, and said talks held between the two sides were constructive and successful. He described relations between Saudi Arabia and Britain as extremely good. Prince Sa'ud is a member of the team holding talks with British leaders on Arab proposals to resolve the Middle East crisis.

U.S. URGED TO USE INFLUENCE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

LD181355 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, March 18, SPA -- The Jidda-published newspaper UKAZ today called on the United States to use its influence to ensure the fulfillment of its pledges on withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

In an editorial headed American Credibility and the Lebanese Problem, the paper said a real shift of position did not lay in mere statements but in the adoption of positive attitudes reflected in solving problems.

"It is this that will help the U.S. recover its political credibility in the Arab region," it added.

It said the American Administration was well aware of Zionist expanionist aims and that the Arab nation could no longer withstand further loss of time and rights, and accordingly now was the best time to work seriously for the realisation of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

RADIO ON KING HUSAYN-HABIB MEETING IN LONDON

LD202325 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan met U.S. envoy Philip Habib in London to discuss what has been described as U.S. attempts to break the deadlock of the efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel is the only obstacle to real peace. This is the meeting point of all the views, even the views of those who have been known for their sympathies toward the Israeli enemy. Israel's constant efforts to undermine every serious attempt to find just and permanent peace [words indistinct]. The Israelis have set an example [word indistinct] by insisting on creating the climate in which real peace cannot exist, which led to the deadlock in the peace efforts [words indistinct]. Israel has rejected the initiative of U.S. President Reagan in its entirety. The enemy prime minister has stressed that he will continue to strongly oppose all the efforts being made for solving the Palestinian problem. The enemy's continued building of settlements in the occupied territories, particularly around the city of Jerusalem, perpetuates the feeling of pessimism that Israel will never deal with reality. All these are indications which give rise to a feeling of lack of satisfaction with regard to the development of the situation [words indistinct] so long as the Israelis remain insistent on undermining every effort [words indistinct].

In such circumstances it appears difficult for every serious move to lead to [word indistinct] results. This is what His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan expressed when he said that the coming phase is very critical unless events are restored to their original course. This is because the future of the peace process is passing through its most serious and crucial states. Hence, the Jordanian king's appeal to the United States to play a more effective role in order to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict problem, particularly that the United States has not carried out its previous [word indistinct] regarding the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, a matter which has encouraged the Israeli enemy to be more firm in its stance, while the Arab side has shown more flexibility and a serious desire to establish a just and permanent peace.

DESALINATION CONTRACTS WITH JAPANESE FIRMS CANCELED

OW190257 Tokyo KYODO in English 0244 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Tokyo March 19 KYODO -- The Saudi Arabian Government has notified Japanese plant builders of the cancellation of the dollar 781 million desalination and electric power plant deals, reliable sources said Saturday.

The sources said the Japanese consortia concerned were shocked at the Saudi move.

Saudi Arabia's Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC) last autumn awarded a Japanese consortium, led by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, a provisional dollar 437 million power plant supply contract. Another consortium, led by Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Co., was awarded a tentative dollar 344 million desalination plant supply contract. Both plants were scheduled for construction in the Asir area, a coastal area in southwestern Saudi Arabia.

In an international bidding last autumn, the two consortia both made the lowest bids.

The sources said this was the first such experience for Japanese interests.

According to the sources, the Saudi Government gave no reason for the cancellation. The sources noted, however, that the move followed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' price cut decision.

PDRY

TALKS WITH BULGARIA BEGIN IN ADEN 20 MAR

GF201616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The first session of talks between the PDRY and the Bulgarian Interior Ministries was held today. The PDRY side was headed by Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Wasi' as-Sallam, deputy interior minister; while the Bulgarian side was headed by Comrade Dimitur Stoyanov, member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and Bulgarian minister of internal affairs.

During the talks, a general review of bilateral relations was made as well as discussion of the ways to develop these relations in the light of the developing relations between the YSP and BCP and the friendship and cooperation agreement which has been signed between the two countries.

GHALI STRESSES NEED FOR U.S. MOVES IN MIDEAST

NC192132 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed Egypt's interest in the need for U.S. moves aimed at securing an Israeli forces withdrawal from Lebanon as soon as possible. He also affirmed Egypt's interest in the need for moves aimed at defending the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

These affirmations were made during a meeting Ghali held with the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. They also reviewed U.S.-Egyptian relations and means to bolster them in various domains.

GHALI ON RELATIONS WITH ARABS, PLO, ISRAEL

NC201517 Cairo MENA in English 1450 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 20 (MENA) -- Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said constant contacts are underway between Egypt and each of Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq.

Dealing with the issue of restoring diplomatic relations with the Arab countries, Dr Ghali said it was not Egypt which severed relations with the Arabs, hence the Arabs should express a clear desire to restore these relations.

In an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine "MONDAY MORNING", Dr Ghali said President Mubarak held positive and constructive talks with the Arab leaders during the convening of the nonaligned summit. This indicated that inter-Arab relations [as received] are temporary.

Dr Ghali said Egypt prefers to maintain balanced relations with the United States and the Soviet Union. It also wishes to restore its role within the Nonaligned Movement.

The declaration of the National Palestinian Council issued recently in Algiers has affected relations between Egypt and the PLO, as Egypt considered it interference in its domestic affairs. In spite of this diplomatic difference, Egypt (?truly) wishes that its relations with the PLO would return back to normal, Ghali said.

The Camp David agreements did not imply any intervention in the domestic affairs of the Palestinians. It only provided for provisional arrangements in the Western Bank and Gaza Strip which would enable the Palestinians at a later stage to self-determination.

Ghali expressed Egypt's hope for Jordan and the PLO to reach an agreement defining their future relations and allowing for their participation in the peace process.

He said that Egypt hoped that talks, which were held in Washington last week between the U.S. and each of Lebanon and Israel separately had given a new impetus to the tripartite negotiations taking place in Khaldah and Netanya rotationally to realise the immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and a pull-out of all foreign forces from there. Egypt will abide by its proclaimed stance so long as the Israeli forces remain in Lebanon, Ghali added.

The recent resumption of Israel-Egyptian talks on bilateral relations does not indicate any change in this stance, as these relations had not been suspended he said.

Ghali denounced the Libyan provocations of Sudan and said the latter is linked to Egypt by joint defence agreements.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT EANES ARRIVES 19 MARCH

Mubarak Meets Eanes

NC201025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Official talks began this morning at the Al-Qubbah Palace between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Portuguese President Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes. Meanwhile, another meeting was held between the Egyptian and Portuguese sides. Participating on the Egyptian side were Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of Culture Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Dr Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri, Presidential Secretary General 'Izz ad-Din al-Mukhtar, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz, Assistant Foreign Minister Jamal Mansur, and Egyptian Ambassador to Portugal Mahmud Amin Fathi.

Participating on the Portuguese side were Minister of Foreign Affairs Vasco Futscher Pereira, Minister of Industry (Alberto Antonio Gastenbano), Portuguese Ambassador in Cairo Constantino Riberio Vaz, Director of the Presidential Military Department Admiral (Henrik Afonso da Silva Horta), director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Department (Louis John Wera) and a number of political affairs experts. The meeting between the Egyptian and Portuguese presidents lasted 3 hours. The members of the two delegations then held a meeting in the presence of Presidents Mubarak and Eanes.

Mubarak-Eanes Press Conference

NC201559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak and Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes this afternoon held a press conference at Al-Qubbah Palace following the conclusion of the extensive talks between the two sides. The press conference was attended by the members of the Egyptian and Portuguese delegations.

President Mubarak began the press conference, which was attended by a large number of local and international press, news agency, and television correspondents, with a speech in which he said: I take this opportunity to welcome my brother, His Excellency Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, in Egypt and to welcome the delegation accompanying his excellency. We held a long session of talks during which we exchanged views on all issues of interest to us in this area. We also discussed some world and international problems as well as relations between our two countries. I reiterate my welcome to his excellency the president and the delegation accompanying him in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes also made a statement, in which he said: My visit to Egypt has been useful. During my meeting with President Mubarak today, I appreciated his frank method of dealing with all matters. My meeting with his excellency and the talks between the Egyptian and Portuguese delegations reaffirmed Portugal's position of support for Egypt and its full appreciation of Egypt's role in the area.

The Portuguese president said: This visit has contributed to the strengthening of the friendly relations between our two countries and the mutual interests between them in view of the friendship which has linked our two peoples for centuries. The visit symbolizes recognition of Egypt's efforts to put an end to tension in the area.

In view of the dangers threatening the area, Portugal expresses its support of the efforts being exerted, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, to bring about self-determination for the Palestinians and to establish peace and security in the area. We share Egypt's interest in defending a just peace and establishing it in the area.

The Portuguese President also said that his visit is aimed at bolstering and expanding relations between the two countries.

He said: I discussed with President Mubarak, during our meeting today, aspects and means of strengthening our cooperation in the commercial and technical fields and ways of developing these fields. It was also a good opportunity for the businessmen in the Portuguese delegation to hold useful contacts with the Egyptian side and to exchange views.

He added: The signing of the trade agreement will promote our relations and will strengthen the mutual confidence between our two countries.

When the Portuguese president ended his speech, the two presidents began answering newsmen's questions.

Replying to a question on Portugal's position on the problem of Namibia and the presence of South African forces in Angola, President Antonio Ramalho Eanes said: We are extremely interested in the problem of Namibia for several reasons. This is based on the principle of our interest in all issues that affect peace in that area. Portugal has a special and effective interest in all the area's political, historic, and economic spheres.

The Portuguese president added: Portugal wants the African states to find a way to achieve stability. We believe that [the problem of] Namibia affects the area. The problem of Namibia hinders Angola's development, and it also affects the whole area. Portugal is against South Africa's invasion of southern Angola. We hope that a solution to this problem will be achieved.

Asked his opinion 4 years after the signing of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, President Husni Mubarak said: We signed the agreement and we respect the treaties which we have signed and which have been approved by the constitutional institutions in Egypt. We think that the peace agreement which we have signed with Israel is, from our point of view, beneficial to the Middle East peace process in general.

President Mubarak added: The peace agreement was concluded on the basis of the first Camp David framework, which was signed and ratified by the Egyptian People's Assembly. As for the second Camp David framework, before the departure of the late President Anwar as-Sadat we had begun the autonomy talks according to this framework. However, Israel interprets autonomy differently from what is stated in the Camp David framework. Israel also insists that the autonomy talks be held in Jerusalem, despite our differences, since the time of the late President as-Sadat in Auguast 1980, with the Israeli claim that it is the capital of Israel. Messages in this regard were exchanged between the late President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin. The talks have remained suspended since the departure of the late President as-Sadat and up to the Lebanon events.

Since the Lebanon events and the appearance of U.S. President Reagan's initiative in September 1982, something new has emerged in the situation. We think, just as the United States and even Israel think, that Jordan must join the negotiations. We are awaiting what the Palestinians will decide with regard to their relations with Jordan in order to start negotiations on the Palestinian issue.

We have been dealing with Israel, since the peace agreement, like any other country in the world. It is not the most preferred [al-awla bi ar-ri'ayah] state. This must be clear. I affirm once again that we are committed to the agreements which we have signed and which have been ratified by our constitutional institutions.

Commenting on the peace agreement, the Portuguese president said: This agreement is a bilateral matter between Egypt and Israel which affects peace in the area. This is the reason for our interest in this agreement, which has contributed to the solution of the area's problem and was a substitute for the military solution. This is something which Portugal supports. The past 4 years have proven the validity of this agreement, despite the fact that it has not solved all the problems. The Palestinian problem still stands. We realize that Egypt is seeking to solve the problem. The solution of this problem will contribute to stability in the area, which, in turn, will have an effect on the world's economic stability.

In reply to a question concerning Portugal's position on the Middle East and Palestinian issues and the future of the U.S. bases in Portugal, the Portuguese president said that there are several problems facing the Middle East. The first is the Palestinian problem, then the Lebanese issue and the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

He said: With regard to the Palestinian issue, we support the Palestinian people's right to establish a homeland and their right to self-determination. We have recognized the PLO as one of the representatives of the Palestinian people.

With regard to Lebanon, Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes appealed to all the parties concerned and the international community to work for the achievement of peace and for the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territory and for its independence.

With regard to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the Portuguese president affirmed the need to achive a solution to this conflict, because it affects all the problems in the Middle East, and without a solution, it will be impossible to ensure peace in the area.

Regarding the future of the U.S. bases in Portugal, President Ramalho Eanes said: We have begun talks to discuss the facilities provided to the United States. The U.S. side is using these bases without problems and is honoring our conditions, and this will lead to the redefinition of the agreement. [sentence as received] The United States is using these facilities in a manner that is consistent with our interests.

Replying to a question about his opinion of the recent statements made by King Husayn of Jordan in London on the need for the restoration of relations with Egypt, President Husni Mubarak said: What King Husayn said is correct. We have been holding consultations for a long time, and I met with King Husayn twice in New Delhi. There is complete understanding between us on the Palestinian issue and the other problems. The restoration of relations is a secondary matter, and we do not talk with him about it, but I do not want to comment any further on this.

Replying to another question on Egypt's postiion toward the PLO, President Mubarak said: No comment. We have already explained that several times, and our position is clear.

Asked about the possibility of Portugal's participation in the peacekeeping force in Lebanon, President Antonio Ramalho Eanes said: We are ready if this will help in the solution of the problem. Portugal has not ruled this out. However, no request has been made to us. When such a request is made, the Portuguese Parliament must first approve it.

At the conclusion of the press conference, President Husni Mubarak replied to a question about Egypt's failure to support the position of the people of the eastern Timor Island. He said: I do not want to comment on this question. It is a matter left for discussion in the United Nations.

TRADE-TOURIST AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PORTUGAL

NC201538 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 20 (MENA) -- Egypt and Portugal signed today an agreement on trade and tourist bilateral cooperation.

The agreement was signed this afternoon at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and by his Portuguese counterpart, Vasco Futscher Pereira.

Hasan 'Ali said later that the agreement aimed at developing economic ties between the two countries and that committees will be formed later on to discuss means of fostering bilateral relations.

'Ali pointed out that the Egyptian economic minister will discuss with a group of Portuguese businessmen the feasibility of increasing the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Portugal.

On the tourist side, the accord stipulates bilateral cooperation in tourist and hotel training, providing technical manpower for the tourism and hotel sectors, in addition to exchanging experts and know-how, training courses, and tourist films.

The agreement also stipulates the formation of a joint committee of specialists from both countries, to convene once a year and follow up the implementation of the agreement's clauses, assess the results obtained, and refer recommendations to the bodies concerned, with the objective of promoting trade and tourist cooperation between the two countries.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR AFRICAN STATES 21 MARCH

NC211146 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) -- A Foreign Ministry delegation including the Information Department director Ambassador Salah Basyuni and the African Department director Ambassador Sami Thabit left Cairo at noon today for Senegal on the first leg of a tour of Kenya, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, and the Republic of Guinea. During this tour, the delegation will hand messages from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali to the foreign ministers of the five African countries on the occasion of the convening of the 19th African summit conference in Addis Ababa in June within the framework of Egypt's diplomatic moves to solve the current African problems and preserve the OAU unity.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 17-20 MAR

Communique No 1,032

JN181725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,032 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave sons of the Tigris and Euphrates, while strongly holding out in the face of the expansionist Khomeyniite ambitions, are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A formation from our bold air force aircraft today attacked the enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. All our aircraft returned safely to base, thanks be to God.

2. One of our units sighted and pounded an enemy gathering opposite our positions east of Basra,killing three and destroying one vehicle, one 106-mm artillery piece, five personnel positions, one weapon position, and one observation post.

3. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and destroying one vehicle, one 106-mm artillery piece, and one infantry position.

4. Two were killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. One was killed and a quantity of military equipment was found in the Maysan operational sector.

6. Today the Khomeyniite regime, which is immersed in crime, used artillery to shell the cities of Basra and Mandali and their suburbs as well as the subdistrict of Khurmal. The savage shelling led to the martyrdom of five children and one girl and the injury of five civilians, including two children and one woman, in Basra. The barbaric Khomeyniite shelling also hit and set fire to one house.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1983

Communique No 1,033

JN191709 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today raided Iranian enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan operational sector, scoring direct and painful hits before returning safely to base. Military Communique No 1,033, which was issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command, noted that, during the past 24 hours, the Iraqi forces killed six Iranians, destroyed a number of weapons, and captured serviceable war materiel. The communique pointed out that the enemy today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage to a number of civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,033 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order that great Iraq's sovereignty and dignity are safeguarded, the valiant sons of our armed forces continued their operations against the forces of the expansionist Khomeyniite clique.

The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Our able fighter planes today raided enemy positions and troop and vehicular concentrations in the Maysan and central operational sectors, scoring direct and painful hits. All of our planes, praise be to God, returned safely to base.

2. Two were killed and one hardware stockpile destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. Two were killed and a number of weapons and two infantry positions destroyed east of Basra.

4. One was killed and quantities of serviceable war materiel was captured in the Maysan sector.

5. The vile Iranian regime today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage to a number of civilian establishment.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1983

Communique No 1,034

JN201727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,034 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 20 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces, while protecting the cherished homeland and the huge revolution gains against the savage Khomeyniite aggression, are continuing their victorious and successful activities. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. The brave pilots of our jet fighters today attacked the enemy positions in the central sector of the battlefield and the enemy troop concentrations in the Maysan sector, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting losses in both men and equipment on the enemy. All our planes returned safely to base.

2. One of our forward units ambushed and clashed with an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the Maysan sector, killing all its elements. Ten of the enemy dead could be seen with the naked eye. The enemy also subtained seven killed, three vehicles, two hardware stockpiles, and one machinegun destroyed, and two serviceable 60-mm mortars and some other weapons and equipment captured opposite the positions of our other units in the same sector.

3. Our units sighted and pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 15 and destroying 1 vehicle carrying 1 106-mm gun, and 2 weapon and personnel positions.

4. Five were killed and one hardware stockpile was destroyed east of Basra.

5. Today the sanguinary Khomeyniite regime used artillery to shell Basra, Mangali, and Zurbatiyah. The savage enemy shelling of Mandali led to the martyrdom of 1 civilian, the injury of 9 others, including 2 women and 1 child, the demolition of 4 houses, and the damaging of part of Mandali hospital and 10 cars.

[Signed] The Armed Fo... General Command, 20 March 1983

KING HUSAYN'S LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE 19 MAR

JN192151 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2010 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Press conference given by King Husayn in London on 19 March 1983 -- videotaped]

[Text] [King Husayn] I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you today. I would like to express, on behalf of the Arab delegation emanating from the Fes Arab summit which I have the privilege of leading to London, our deepest appreciation for the warm and cordial welcome that we have received and the opportunity that we had to convey to our friends the Arab consensus arrived at at that famous meeting in terms of the commitment and the desire and the yearning for the establishment of the long-sought, just, and durable peace in our area of the world.

I believe this visit concludes the mission that took us to the five permanent members of the Security Council for the very fruitful discussions that were held during this period of time, and it couldn't have ended, in my view and opinion, on a happier note.

We are heartened by the understanding, the interest, and indeed, the support, for we and our friends in the United Kingdom have many historic ties and a degree of understanding which is unique to problems of our area and dangers to that part of the world and to world peace. And on both sides I know we have a genuine desire to keep in close touch and to make a joint contribution for the establishment of a just and durable peace. Indeed, Britain's unique role and position, with its deep roots in the past, with its influence in the world within the European Community as manifested during the recent times, in my view, has helped us in our area avert the danger of polarization and has been a positive influence on events in the world.

I know that we will keep in touch during this critical phase when the future of our area, maybe the world, hangs in the balance. I know we have friends with whom we can speak candidly, with confidence, and with a feeling of parnership, for our objectives are one and the same.

It has been a wonderful visit. I've been privileged and honored to lead the delegation here and I'm happy that our mission has been accomplished successfully. I am grateful to the government, the prime minister, the foreign secretary, and more than that, I am honored by the many kindnesses extended to me by her majesty the queen. I will remember these days, and we continue on as friends seeking to make our contribution for a better future for generations to come.

Thank you very much indeed. It's a difficult time and unfortunately there are many constraints that do not permit me to be as candid with you on all issues as I would like, but if I can help in answering any questions within these limitations, then certainly I will. Thank you very much.

[Question] [Words indistinct] now successfully met the five member nations of the Security Council. What tangible results have come of your visit to London? And of the evidence that you've found for your five visits, are they anywhere nearer, at least as to the Middle East -- what do you know of this visit -- what comes from it -- what profit do you gain from it?

[King Husayn] I can say that the conditions in the area are extremely grave. We have had some very tragic events which occurred during the last year -- the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the ongoing occupation of large part of that country, the disasters that occurred in Beirut itself following the PLO's departure, the massacres of Sabra and Shatila.

On the other hand, we've had the Fes summit meeting, there for the first time, the entire Arab world, possibly with one exception, came out for peace, a just peace, a durable peace, based on realities, based on Security Council and United Nations resolutions. And then I can say that, to a very large extent, the foundation that we have sought for peace has been one of your contributions, security Council Resolution 242. It has been recognized as the foundation for any solution to the problem and as the initiative that has been made so far for pace.

[Question] [Words indistinct] in accordance with the Reagan plan?

[King Husayn] It's difficult for me to answer this question at this precise moment. [Word indistinct] the responsibilities of being a member of this delegation. His Majesty King Hassan II headed the delegation to Washington. I've had a visit to the United States and very extensive talks with our friends there. I believe that the situation in the occupied territories is extremely dangerous. In point of fact, since the beginning of September and the President's speech, Israel has doubled its settlement activities. I believe, for many reasons, that we don't have much time before formidable obstacles are created in the path of any possible progress towards peace. I have conveyed the results of my talks and my impressions to my brethren in the area -- Palestinians and Arabs alike. We are in very close consultations and probably within a matter of days, we will know exactly where we stand on this particular issue.

[Question] Your Majesty, have you talked with Mr Habib yet or are you going to today, and if so, where and when?

[King Husayn] [Words indistinct] later on today. [Words indistinct].

[Question] Your Majesty, what would you like to see come from such talks?

[King Husayn] Talks are continuing. We are keeping in touch following developments. I certainly believe that the American credibility, and I've conveyed this Washington, is passing through a difficult test, be it in terms of Lebanon and the need to see that country free of the presence of foreign troops, to see it free and united, exercising its sovereignty over its territory, an objective that was forecast to be achieved by the end of last year, but which has still not been attained. And certainly also the conditions in the occupied territories, in terms of repression, settlement activities, and changes to the land and its shape and the creation of formidable obstacles in the path of peace. There again, logic leaves it to you to find a solution to the problem, as what is the sense of permitting the continuation of these activities which are creating obstacles in the path of peace? The United States has a role to play there as well. And we are hoping that it will be able to contribute toward enhancing its credibility and playing the major role that only the United States can play, in the interest of securing a just and durable peace in the area.

[Question] Your Majesty, do you expect that the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks to start this spring? Do you expect peace between these two countries to be achieved within the next few months?

[King Husayn] I've spoken of many constraints, only at this time, in terms of the possibilities of answering such a question. The issue is not peace between Israel and Jordan; the issue is a comprehensive peace in the area.

We are deeply involved in looking at all the difficult questions and all the different options that are available and possibly within a short space of time we might be able to clarify our position further, but more than that, I would like to point out to the fact that Israel, on her side, has not contributed in any form towards such a possibility, by refusing the Reagan plan, which responded by answering the American initiative not only with rejection, but with an intensified activity of settlements and settler activities in the occupied territories and acts of repression that have affected everyone there, and by continuing to remain in the Lebanon after this time. So I suppose the Israelis themselves will have to answer some of your question, in fairness. I have a feeling that Israel, in defiance of the world and its will and possibly its own long-term interests, has embarked on a program aimed at finally absorbing the occupied territories, and we see manifestations of that through the acts of repression that affected everyone in the occupied territories, and the continuous changes -- the accelerated changes -- on the ground.

[Question] Sir, are you satisfied with British and European policy on the Middle East issue? Would you like, for instance, to see Britain and Europe do more to put pressure on Israel to bring Israel to a better frame of mind?

[King Husayn] As for Britain and Europe's position, we have felt that, after a very difficult period of time, it has given us hope; it's given us courage; it has been a just and constructive attitude. It probably has had even a positive influence on the thinking in terms of other powers in this world. It has certainly averted in our area the dangers of polarization. We find that we are in an area which is of strategic importance for many obvious reasons. There is cause of instability in our area, the still unresolved Arab-Israeli issue. Yet we find also that what is at stake is our identity as a people, our freedom, our links with our past and the rights of future generations. And the dangers of polarization are very real in our area and have been. Europe's position and attitude has helped avert it. Israeli attitudes are most discouraging in terms of any possibilities of -- once again what I have indicated what we are striving for and to achieve is a comprehensive settlement and a comprehensive peace in the area.

[Question] [Words indistinct] said that it could be a matter of days ...

[King Husayn] [Words indistinct] possible on the path of the establishment of a just and durable peace in the area.

[Question] Your Majesty, [name indistinct], BBC World Service. Could you confirm that, as you [words indistinct] 'Arafat next week, do you feel that [words indistinct] and after the meeting [words indistinct] you will be making a public declaration.

[King Husayn] [Words indistinct] In all honesty, give you an answer at this point. [Words indistinct]

[Question] [Words indistinct]

[King Husayn] We are in the closest contact; we are in touch and we have been and I made that clear at the Arab summit in Fes. And since President Mubarak assumed the responsibilities of his office we have been in constant contact and in constant touch. And I was very happy indeed to have had the opportunity of personally meeting the president, an old friend, once again when we were together at the nonaligned summit in New Delhi, and I can only say that it is inevitable that Egypt and her Arab family come together as soon as possible.

So, notwithstanding the fact that we do not have diplomatic relations in terms of the presence of ambassadors here and there, our relations are extremely close and the contacts are continuing, and consultations on all matters. And it may help me to answer your question if I point out to the fact that I visited Egypt twice in the past when we did not have diplomatic relations. So they are not of such importance at this stage, but inevitably they will be restored.

[Question indistinct]

[King Husayn] I think that there are many possibilities through the way the situation has evolved in our area to see that there are no major differences. I did say from the beginning that we welcome the Reagan plan as a brave and courageous move, probably the first for many many years. There were positive areas; there were vague areas. During my visit to Washington, I had the privilege and pleasure of discussing the plan, presenting our views with candor both to the President and his able aides, and to have had the opportunity to receive their answers on many questions. I've conveyed all this to our brethren, Palestinians, Arabs, and the dialogue is ongoing between us to see what else we could do. But I would like to point out basically here that, whereas the Arab position in general has been positive, the Israeli position has been negative. The present Israeli policy, if I am correct, suggests that the Palestinian problem should be resolved in Jordan and that Palestinians have no right on their legitimate soil. As far as I am concerned, it's not a question of individuals; it's a question of what we can do in the right circumstances for the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the area. The cause of peace, a just and durable peace, is a cause I have been committed to over the years. I hope the opportunities will arise and I hope to be able to contribute my utmost to seeing that the chance for peace is not lost.

Further on Press Conference

JN191922 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the situation in the region is extremely dangerous due to the tragic events through which the region passed last year, the continuing Israeli occupation of large parts of Lebanon, and the intensification of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Addressing a press conference in London today, His Majesty King Husayn said that U.S. credibility is facing a difficult test and that time is running out with regard to progress to peace in the Middle East. He added that the U.S. side has been very late with regard to the objectives which should have been achieved at the beginning of this year, at least as far as Lebanon is concerned.

His majesty explained that the situation is extremely dangerous in the occupied Arab territories. Israel has doubled its settlement activities since U.S. President Reagan announced his initiative early September 1982. Moreover, Israel stepped up its repressive practices against the Arab citizens, its measures to introduce demographic changes there, and its creating of obstacles to peace.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed the hope that Washington would increase its efficacy and play a primary role which no other than the United States can play with regard to the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the region. He pointed out that the issue is not one of establishing peace between Jordan and Israel; it is a matter of an overall peace in the region. He said: We are very much concerned with peace.

We are studying all the available options and proposals and we hope that we will, during the remaining time, define our stand more precisely. Israel, his majesty added, has not at all contributed toward the peace process. Israel was not content with rejecting President Reagan's initiative, but hastened to intensify the settlements and the settlers' provocative acts against Arab citizens through its program designed to absorb all the occupied Arab territories.

His Majesty King Husayn added that the peace process in the region is passing through its gravest stage, stressing that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East issue. It is the issue of the Arab rights on Palestinian soil and the Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. His majesty added: It depends on how the Israeli occupation of large parts of Lebanon is tackled and on what takes place in the near future -- in terms of progress or deterioration -- whether we will be able to make deductions concerning the results which affect us all in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn said: There have been many steps achieved -- steps generated by Jordanian and Palestinian faith and by the common destiny and objective -- in confronting the danger and consolidating and building relations on firm and constant bases. His majesty stressed the need to continue this march to satisfy all the aspirations and hopes of every Jordanian and Palestinian. He added: Our inter-Arab action and Jordanian-Palestinian action are basic, particularly at this stage, so we are in a position to serve our common issue. His majesty said: My next meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be important and crucial and will bolster our joint action, with the backing of our Arab brothers, to help define our course.

His Majesty King Husayn said: We have been and still are in close contact with President Husni Mubarak. I explained this during the Fes summit conference. I was very pleased to have met with President Mubarak and I met him during the nonaligned summit in New Delhi. I believe it is necessary that Egypt return to the Arab rank as soon as possible. Although there are no diplomatic relations -- at ambassadorial level -- between Egypt and a number of Arab countries, relations are still close and consultations and contacts on various issues are continuing.

His majesty said that, by its visit to Britain, the seven-member committee had completed the task of contacting the permanent members of the UN Security Council to explain the Arab peace plan, which was formed at the Fes summit and which embodies Arab unanimity and desire to reach a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He said: The committee's visit to Britain was extremely successful and has attained its objectives.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES ARAB MINISTERS, OTHERS

JN190708 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received respectively at his place of residence in London today M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign minister; His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister who was en route to Beirut from Washington; Nabil ar-Ramlawi, director of the PLO office in London; and Dr Walid al-Khalidi, Palestine representative within the Arab seven-member committee. These meetings were attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Receives Syria's Khaddam

JN191812 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at his place of residence in London this morning 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Receives Habib

JN200636 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Last night His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. envoy Philip Habib at his London residence. Habib briefed his majesty on the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations on Lebanon. They also made a general assessment of the situation in the Middle East. The U.S. ambassador in Amman was present at the meeting.

AR-RA'Y ON HUSAYN'S LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE

JN200804 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on King Husayn's press conference in London AR-RA'Y says: Following King Husayn's press conference in London yesterday, it has become clear that this is a very dangerous state for the peace process in the region for the following reasons:

1. At a time when the aggressive Israeli practices in the occupied territories are being escalated in an unprecedented manner, particularly since President Reagan announced his initiative, we see that the United States has not exploited the time factor to prove its credibility which is now facing a critical test.

2. It is inaccurate and unacceptable to give the impression that the objective of the peace process is to bring about peace between Jordan and Israel, because the logical objective of this process is achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the recognition of Palestinian rights. This process must be linked with a true U.S. action to halt the Israeli practices which are divesting the peace objective of its contents.

3. The peace process will not be of any value unless Israel joins this process and, so far, all indications are that Israel is resisting this process in the occupied territories and in Lebanon.

Hence Jordan cannot be held responsible for the loss of time because Israel is gaining from the passing of time. The U.S. credibility is still facing a critical test.

The UK foreign secretary has been quoted as saying that Israel must clarify whether it intends to join the peace process or not. This quote, which is accurate, must warn the U.S. Administration that the ball is now in the Israeli court and not in Jordan's.

We recall how the U.S. Administration strongly underlined the importance of the time factor. We now find it necessary to remind this administration that it holds the primary responsibility for the time factor because it can force Israel to relinquish its aggressive practices and join the peace process on the basis of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, foremost of which are their firm rights in their own land.

We hope that the United States will succeed in proving its credibility in this critical stage.

TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME IN NETANYA 21 MAR

NC211002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0854 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Dispatch by Information Ministry's delegation to Netanya -- live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: This is the Information Ministry's delegation to the tripartite Lebanese-American-Israeli negotiations speaking to you from Dan Netanya Hotel where the tripartite negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory are being held. This is the 23d session.

The plenary session of the three delegations began at 0955. It will be followed by the subcommittees meetings. The plenary meeting ended at 1020. The Lebanese delegation's official spokesman, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, emerged from the session to say that the question of the security arrangements -- on which agreement is still facing some obstacles -- was raised at today's plenary session.

Leader of the Lebanese delegation Dr Antoine Fattal said: This is a basic issue which we have been discussing since the first meeting. After deliberations, it was decided to devote this Friday's meeting in Netanya to the discussion of the security arrangements.

After this, the subcommittees began their work. The subcommittees on ending the state of war and on mutual relations as well as the military subcommittee, which includes the security arrangements and mutual relations, met.

We have learned that a new schedule for the forthcoming meetings will be prepared at Friday's meeting which will take the coming holidays into account. There are holidays in Israel on Monday and Tuesday next week. Today's meetings will end at 1300 and the Lebanese delegation will return to Beirut at 1400.

At 1025 leader of the Israeli delegation Avi Pazner [as heard] came out to tell reporters: We resumed the discussions after several days' interruption, which were devoted to the study and appraisal of several subjects connected with Lebanon. We will resume these face-to-face, direct discussions with the Lebanese delegation and with the participation of the U.S. delegation here in Netanya and there in Khaldah.

The official spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner, added that there has been tangible progress last week particularly regarding relations between Lebanon and Israel. Concerning the security issues, he said, there are some obstacles. He added: You know that we have serious security problems. It has been our experience that the terrorists caused us many problems when they were stationed in the south. Pazner went on: I add that it is not the Israeli delegation alone which raised this question. It was also raised by the leader of the Lebanese delegation who quoted Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim as speaking in Washington of Israel's legitimate need for security along its northern border. In this spirit, he added, we will resume the discussions here in Netanya and in Khaldah.

The plenary session ended at 1020. The subcommittees began their meetings which will continue until 1300.

Ladies and gentlemen, After the interruption of the negotiations at the delegations level, for approximately 11 days, the delegations of Lebanon, the United States, and Israel resumed their meetings here following the postponement of two successive meetings in Khaldah and Netanya.

High-level discussions were held among the three sides in Washington during this period. The various foreign information media agreed on the clear diplomatic supremacy of the Lebanese delegation in the United States.

Nothing can be predicted so far about the progress of today's session because both similar and conflicting expectations do not point to a specific result. In this framework, the visit of U.S. envoy Philip Habib to Israel and Lebanon and the bilateral agreement to discuss the new U.S. proposals on the negotiations provide a new atmosphere. Most sources indicate that today's session will be confined to a meeting in the morning only because Israeli delegation leader David Kimche will leave for Paris at noon today. Reports speak of a French initiative connected with the tripartite negotiations. This initiative coincides with Kimche's decision to visit Paris. Dr Antoine Barud pointed out that there is nothing official concerning such an initiative -- the French initiative.

It is necessary to point out here that the Lebanese official stand is still one of insistence on the withdrawals first following which other affairs could be discussed.

AL-JUMAYYIL WELCOMES FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER

NC182028 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Speech in English by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on 18 March at the B'abda Presidential Palace welcoming former U.S. President Jimmy Carter -- recorded]

[Text] President Carter: We welcome you and Mrs Carter here in Lebanon, for you and your dear wife will be long remembered for your endeavor on behalf of mankind -- your dear wife for all that she has done to alleviate the miseries of the orphans and the mentally ill, and you, yourself, with all that [words indistinct] of peace and reconciliation. History will judge the noble endeavor which you have constantly exerted to bring about peace to an area that has suffered the ravages of war for too long. And we here in Lebanon have had our share of it as no other people in the Middle East have had to endure. [Words indistinct] began our severe ordeal as though we were the only nation called upon to pay its price.

We welcome you in the name of peace. Blessed are the peacemakers. And, as the [words indistinct] man, you have always advocated that peace should be for Lebanon also. I think you will agree with us here in Lebanon when we say that durable peace cannot be based upon the exigencies between clever politicians on the private affairs imposed by the power of arms. [sentence as heard] But (?rather) they have learned from history all too painfully that a true and lasting peace between peoples can only spring from a sheer determination to achieve justice based upon universal values of human rights, upon the legitimate national aspirations of the peoples concerned, and upon the will to coexist. Lasting peace cannot, by its very natrue, be imposed. Rather, it must emanate from the will of the people as an end in itself and as a conviction that it serves the interest of all.

The Lebanese people have these democratic and human ideals with the American people that great nation with whom we have had beneficial relations for many years. Not only have millions of Lebanese made the United States their home but we take pride in the quality of the contribution made to American life and thought by such sons of Lebanon as Ralph Nader, Dr Debakey, Danny Thomas, and others, not to mention our great poet Kahlil Gibran.

Lebanon has always been a peace-loving country. It does ever wait against another. [as heard]. Yes, we seem to have suffered so many times on account of the wars of others and even seem at times in danger of having to pay the price of the peace sought by those others.

We remember with gratitude that, in somber days, you intervened to help us. You placed the full weight of your office to rally support for Lebanon. Circumstances were against us then. And the tragedy continued unabated. Now, we trust that those circumstances have changed. Today, we have no choice but to strive for a real peace through our program of national unity and reconstruction on all Lebanon. As we must achieve this real peace in complete harmony with our Arab environment, we eagerly anticipate the complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese soil. And we look forward to the eventual success of the peace process, which is now being pursued with vigor and determination by President Reagan.

We are delighted to have you both with us. As to you, President Carter, I wish to express our gratitude for your visit, Mr President. [applause]

Report on News Conference

NC190714 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has said that a permanent peace by nature cannot be imposed by force. Peace must stem from a genuine desire by the people as a noble goal in itself. During a press conference with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter held at B'abda Palace last night, President al-Jumayyil said: We must achieve peace in complete harmony with our Arab surroundings. He added: We expect the complete withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces. We hope that the peace efforts which President Reagan pledged to exert will succeed.

Former President Carter stressed that Lebanon must be free from foreign pressure so that it will again be free, strong, and united. He called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and rejected a partial withdrawl. He emphasized that the withdrawal must take place within 2 or 3 months at most and not in 2 or 3 years. He expressed his reassurance that Lebanon will triumph and emerge healthy from its ordeal owing to President al-Jumayyil's resolve and determination. He said that following his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad he emerged with an impression that Syria will withdraw from Lebanon after Israel has withdrawn.

SALIM, SALAM CONTINUE TALKS IN U.S., EUROPE

NC190810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim are continuing their talks in the United States and Europe. Salam has gone to New York and met for 45 minutes with Cardinal Terrence Cook. After the meeting, Salam said that the meeting was excellent, pointing out that Cardinal Cook has re-emphasized his support for Lebanon and determination to help it.

Yesterday afternoon, Salam met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in the presence of the Lebanese permanent delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Kisrawan Labaki. Salam described the meeting as a protocol one during which the UN role in Lebanon was reviewed. Prime Minister Salam is expected to return to Beirut tomorrow, Sunday.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan yesterday received a telephone call from [former] Prime Minister Salam who briefed him on the results of his talks. Al-Wazzan said that Salam expressed his complete satisfaction with the talks.

Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim is now in London and he has already met with British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. He will meet today with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who is now visiting London in his capacity as a member of the Arab seven-member committee.

After a 30-minute meeting with Francis Pym, Foreign Minister Salim said that the states participating in the multinational force are determined to keep their contingents in Lebanon despite the recent incidents. He emphasized that he neither discussed with the British foreign secretary the question of (?defining) the mandate of the British contingent serving within the multinational force nor the possibility of increasing the number of this contingent.

Asked about the new U.S. ideas for achieving progress in the negotiations with Israel, Salim said: We have accepted some of these ideas: The rest of these ideas require further discussion. He said that there are certain points to which the Israelis must first respond before they are discussed more seriously. He rejected the criticisms directed against Philip Habib, saying: We believe he is acceptable to all the parties concerned.

SALIM MEETS KING HUSAYN, KHADDAM, FAYSAL

NC200623 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim will go to Rome today to meet with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo. Salim met in London yesterday with King Husayn of Jordan and also with his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faysal. He then went to Paris where he held discussions with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson.

SALIM, CHEYSSON DISCUSS NEW U.S. PROPOSALS

NC200823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign and Expatriates Minister De Elie Salim today said in Paris that at a meeting yesterday he briefed French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson on the results of his visit to Washington and the U.S. support for Lebanon. He also briefed the French minister on the U.S. proposals regarding the withdrawal of the foreign armies from Lebanon and the strengthening of the Lebanese Army. Minister Salim said he expects results within 2 weeks.

Cheysson briefed Salim on the information he has on this question and some international issues and their effect on Lebanon. He emphasized France's determination to keep its forces at the disposal of Lebanon as long as they are needed.

Minister Salim has begun contacts with Rome and the Vatican to find out whether his colleagues there can meet with him any time before midday on Monday so that he can return to Beirut before Tuesday.

SALIM ON TALKS WITH KING HUSAYN, PYM, KHADDAM

NC210745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] News agencies report a series of statements which Foreign Minister Elie Salim made after his meetings with King Husayn of Jordan, British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Concerning his meeting with the Jordanian monarch, Salim said: We reviewed the current issues in Lebanon and the area in light of the strong fraternal relations between Lebanon and Jordan and in light of the existing understanding and coordination to follow up developments and ways of dealing with them.

On his meeting with Secretary Pym, Salim said: The object of my visit to Britain was to strengthen the Lebanese-British relations and analyze the situation in the Middle East and Britain's policy in this regard. He emphasized that the Middle East peace process can only start through the establishment of peace in Lebanon. Peace in Lebanon, he said, can only be established if all foreign forces withdraw from its territories and if the legitimate authority imposes its full sovereignty through the deployment of the Lebanese Army in all parts of the land, areas, and borders.

Salim described his meeting with Minister Khaddam as very friendly. He said: We reviewed all aspects of the situation on the basis of the existing coordination between Lebanon and Syria, particularly after the meeting which took place between the Lebanese and Syrian presidents at the nonaligned summit in New Delhi.

Salim added: You know that the New Delhi meeting between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad dealt with all the current issues in detail. There has been a consultation on all steps that could be taken. In light of this, the meetings must continue to coordinate the stands and adopt the appropriate decisions at the appropriate time.

On the possibility of other meetings or visits between the two countries, Minister Salim said: Everything is likely according to the dictates of the circumstances. What is more important is that there should be coordination and understanding. The ultimate issue is that of restoration of peace to the area. Peace in London is the key to peace in the area, as the president put it. Consequently, there are facts which have become obvious. As long as efforts continue to be exerted to establish this peace, then peace will be established in Lebanon.

SA'IB SALAM RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM U.S. TALKS

NC201912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, the personal envoy of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, returned here at 1600 today from the United States. During his visit to the United States, Salam conveyed a message from President al-Jumayyil to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and held talks with a number of U.S. Administration officials.

Prime Minister Salam was received at the airport by Interior Ministry Director General Samih as-Sulh, as the representative of Prime Minister al-Wazzan, Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil, Deputy Dr Jamil Kibbah, the MEA director general and other officials.

At the airport, Prime Minister Salam made the following comments:

[Begin recording] [Question] Prime Minister Salam, upon your return to Beirut today, how do you assess the results of your talks in Washington?

[Answer] It was a very necessary and useful visit, and I hope something good will result from it. The [word indistinct] slogan is movement, because movement results in blessing. I believe that our move, thank God, by virtue of all the Lebanese people's support, was a blessed one.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, do you think that the results of your talks will be positively reflected in the atmosphere of the current tripartite negotiations between Lebanon and Israel with the participation of the United States?

[Answer] I have much to say, but first I should meet with his excellency the president to brief him on the results of my visit. Tomorrow I will have a lengthy discussion with you.

[Question] [Word indistinct] the withdrawals question?

[Answer] The matter is that of the withdrawals. When the occupying enemy withdrawals, we will surmount all difficulties in our country.

[Question] Are you optimistic about an imminent... [questioner interrupted by Salam]

[Answer] I am optimistic. As usual, I am very optimistic. The complete Lebanese unity as well as the Arab support which we received there from all our Arab brothers and from friendly countires gave us much momentum. Now let us wait and hope for the good, God willing. [end recording]

Salam Briefs Al-Jumayyil

NC201942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's personal envoy to the United States, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, has declared that he is more optimistic now than before about the future of the situation in Lebanon. Salam made this statement on leaving President al-Jumayyil's home in Sinn Al-Fil, where he submitted a report on his trip to Washington and New York and his meetings with President Reagan, Senior U.S. Administration officials, the UN Secretary General and Cardinal Cook.

AL-JUMAYYIL ADVISER SAYS U.S. TALKS SUCCESSFUL

NC181927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] President al-Jumayyil's adviser and member of the Lebanese delegation to Washington, Dr Wadi' Haddad, returned to Beirut today to brief the authorities on the results of the talks with President Reagan and the U.S. Administration.

Dr Haddad described the talks in Washington as very successful, and upon his arrival in Beirut said:

[Begin recording] We regard the talks in the United States, or to be more precise, our visit to the United States was very successful, because there were no negotiations in Washington. The main objectives of our visit were to clarify the Lebanese stance to the U.S. side and to answer all the questions resulting from the visit of the Israeli delegation to Washington. There was a great response on the part of the U.S. Administration toward the Lebanese stand, and there was also deep understanding -- an understanding which has always been felt between the Lebanese and the U.S. delegations throughout the tripartite negotiations. This understanding was further deepended and consolidated with all U.S. officials -- President Reagan, Vice President Bush, the State Department, the Defense Department, and all the White House bodies.

[Question] Mr Haddad, after these talks how optimistic are you about the probability of the withdrawals from Lebanon in the near future, aprticularly since it has been reported that Mr Habib is carrying a plan to this effect with him?

[Answer] It is hard to be optimistic [words indistinct]. What took place in Washington was part of the whole picture. This part is the Lebanese-U.S. understanding. There is still the U.S.-Israeli understanding, the Lebanese-Israeli understanding, and the Lebanese understanding with the other parties. Therefore, the issue is multidimensional. It is sufficient to say that we have a positive outlook and that we regard the events of the past few days as being on the track toward a solution. Sometimes we avoid the word optimism so as not to give the impression that an agreement will be reached in 2, 3, or 10 days.

[Question] Do you think that the Washington talks will reflect positively on the atmosphere of the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel with the participation of the United States?

[Answer] On our part, the reflection is positive, and we will brief his excellency the president on the results of our visit to Washington, [words indistinct] and that will be in the form of political decisions. We hope that the same thing will be made by the Israeli side. The talks they had in the United States and the detailed proposals [words indistinct] the U.S. arrangements. [end recording]

AL-JUMAYYIL PRAISES U.S. ROLE DURING NAVAL VISIT

NC201759 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Excerpts] President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today inspected the U.S. naval units anchored off the Lebanese coast which are supporting the U.S. Marines operating within the framework of the multinational force.

President al-Jumayyil was transported by a Lebanese [as heard] military helicopter to the U.S. aircraft carrier. He inspected the U.S. naval units and the equipment of these vessels, particularly on the aircraft carrier and the helicopter carriers.

The Marine commander and senior officers welcomed President al-Jumayyil. A Marine unit saluted him upon arrival.

The president's visit to the U.S. fleet was made within the framework of affirming the important role being undertaken by the multinational force to bring about peace in Lebanon and also as an expression of the Lebanese stance, which opposes and denounces the aggressions that have recently been made against these forces.

President al-Jumayyil discussed with the U.S. naval unit commander the working conditions of these forces. He also praised their role and affirmed the Lebanese Government's and people's appreciation of their noble stance in defending Lebanon side by side with their colleagues in the French, Italian, and British contingents. He also emphasized that Lebanon will always be grateful to them.

Upon his departure, the president shook hands with the unit commander and senior officers. He took off aboard the same helicopter that transported him there.

AL-WAZZAN COMMENTS ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION, TALKS

NC192337 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Speech by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at ceremony in Al-Awza'i, Beirut, to honor Civil Defense members in Muslim Scouts Society on 19 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] You have given a great deal and through such giving the future of this homeland will be built. This homeland has started its march toward salvation and liberation.

It is decisively and firmly determined to uphold its march. This march has begun and through your sincere giving we and the homeland will achieve salvation and liberation. [applause]

Brave youths, pillars of the future and live and radiant symbols of giving: In these critical days we are all living through several events at the national level of which we form a part. These days we are all living through events at the level of the homeland which we and all our brothers in all Islamic places form a basic part of. At all levels, wherever they may be, we are all living through the tragedy of the occupation that has befallen most parts of the Lebanese homeland. We sought to follow the first step and to achieve the primary basic objective before other steps and objectives. This is represented in putting an end to the Israeli occupation and in achieving the withdrawals of all non-Lebanese forces, thus making the national sovereignty purely Lebanese over all the national soil without any partner, controller or dominator. [applause]

To realize this aim, in the current negotiations we are adopting a courageous and steadfast stand, adhering to the sublime Lebanese interests and to the firm Lebanese position in this area. We are also adhering to Lebanon's original and strong relations with the Arab world. We are loyal to the issues of this suffering, struggling, and patient homeland. The time has come for it to emerge from the dark tunnel in which it stayed for a long time. We are likewise loyal to all just questions of our brothers who realize your and our steadfastness and who know how genuine our stances and positions are toward them. This homeland has proved this, In addition to its long history, during 8 years of unlimited giving and sacrifices. This homeland continued with its giving and sacrifices by all its power until its existence and survival have become subject to whims and have become endangered. In Khaldah and in Qiryat Shemona, we and everyone else have tangibly felt how Lebanon does not bargain over its cause, its sovereignty, its higher interests, or its identity, affiliation, and relations with its brothers. Lebanon does not bargain over their question. Lebanon has been among the foremost who supported and spared no sacrifices for its sake.

Lebanon has given without limits. The time has come that it should receive unlimited support. This is a right due it from all its brothers, including those who gave and those who hesitated, those who sacrificed and those who did not. Lebanon, which has been the more giving and the greater sacrificer, now deserves all support, understanding, and cooperation.

Brothers, while the occupation is a heavy burden under which the country is suffering, it is also a basis motive for us to move toward a complete national fusing, by which and through which we can avoid all trifles and traps set for us by those seeking to conspire against us. We should all turn to the homeland's first cause -- putting an end to the present occupation and restoring the state's sovereignty.

We proceeded to Washington with honor and without humiliation, strong in our right and in the soundness of our stance. We proceeded with a new mentality -- the mentality of a new Lebanon, the Lebanon of post-fire and steel, and a mentality of positiveness and initiative. It was unacceptable to leave the stage for others to try again to link our question with the comprehensive question while time is running out. It was unacceptable to disregard attempts to foil our thoughts and thus expose all our efforts and destiny to nothing.

If the indications of this move are so far positive, this does not mean that we have reached the cherished solution. We still have much difficult and delicate work before us. We need a stance that contains further steadfastness and rallying by you. The legitimacy, which deserves your trust, cannot be strong without you.

You often hear some critism connected with specific or personal interests. Let me tell you that there will be no leniency, particularly on what is right and fundamental. The government upholds the sublime interests. The strength of the stance lies in the unity of the state, which has and will continue to be our protecting shield.

U.S. MARINES INCIDENT SUSPECT ARRESTED

JN210841 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Mar (SANA) -- In an exclusive dispatch from Beirut citing political and security sources, Kuwait's AL-WATAN reports that the culprit who hurled a handgrenade at the U.S. Marines has been arrested. The paper adds that the defendant, who is an Israeli agent and a member of the Al-Haj Hasan clan, was arrested at a road-block in the Al-Awza'i area immediately after the incident.

RADIO REPORTS FATAH MEMBER KIDNAPS THREE WOMEN

NC181258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text2 Reports received by the Voice of Lebanon radio from Al-Biqa' indicate that Fatah Lieutenant Yasin Khmais 'Ayyad had kidnapped two Franciscan nuns called Jacqueline Hawwa and Amirah Qaddum as well Samirah Hanna Kayruz while they were traveling from Al-Biqa' township of (Bishwati) to Bayt Abu Sulaybah farm.

EXPLOSIVES AT LIBYAN EMBASSY RENDERED HARMLESS

NC190914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] At 0230 today, a military expert rendered harmless explosives that had been placed in two bags on the ground floor of the Libyan Embassy building in Beirut. An Army force as well as an emergency force patrol proceeded to the Libyan Embassy building. Investigations have begun to find those who had placed the explosives.

REPORTAGE ON CARTER VISIT TO DAMASCUS 18 MARCH

Radio Monte Carlo Report

JN181228 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who has been on a private visit to Syria since last Wednesday, this morning visited the outskirts of Damascus and met with several university professors after his visit to Al-Qunaytirah was canceled for as yet unknown reasons. Carter will leave the Syrian captial this afternoon for Beirut on a short visit during which he will meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil. He is also expected to inspect U.S. Marine forces within the multinational force. President Carter will leave Beirut this evening for Marrakesh on a 2-day visit to Morocco, which is the last leg of his unofficial factfinding tour of several countries in the area.

Damascus Radio Report

JN181331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter stated in Damascus last night that President Hafiz al-Asad had accepted new USSR SAM-5's to help protect his country's independence. The Voice of America said that Carter announced that he disagrees with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who had previously said that the Syrian measure has converted Syria into another center of the Russian empire. Carter added that President Hafiz al-Asad's concern focuses on whether the United States is really committed to evicting Israel from Lebanon.

The former U.S. president said after his meeting with President al-Asad that he was satisfied with the discussion of Middle East issues and that the discussion was characterized by complete frankness.

Report on Press Conference

JN181812 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Telephone dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris]

[Text] Before leaving Damascus for Beirut and Morocco, [former U.S.] President Carter held a press conference in his place of residence in the Damascus Sheraton Hotel this afternoon. In his press conference, Carter said there are sharp differences between Syria and the U.S. Government on all settlement plans submitted by his administration and later by President Reagan's administration on the peaceful termination of the Middle East conflict.

Carter described the Syrian-U.S. relations as tense due to the two countries' contradictory policies. However, Carter stressed that relations between him and President al-Asad are good. He added that he was surprised and even delighted at the warm reception accorded to him and his wife by the Syrian president and people.

Carter strongly rejected U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's claims that Syria is an advanced base for the Russian empire. He added that Syria is so strong and its president is so prudent that they cannot allow any foreign power to influence Syria's policies or decisions.

Carter reiterated his call for everyone to sit at the negotiating table, stressing the need for Jordan and the Palestinians to take part in Reagan's settlement plan. However, he did not specify which Palestinians he meant.

He referred to Syria's opposition to this plan when he said that the position he sensed in Damascus is different from the positions he sensed in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, as well as those of the Palestinians with whom he met in the occupied territory. He added that he noticed a common denominator in the positions of everyone in the region without exception on the major aims regarding peace and security. He also stressed the need to achieve justice.

Asked about the issue of missiles, Carter said that any weapon whose range is 150 or 200 km is a weapon which threatens the security of others. He added that this theory applies to both Syria and Israel.

Asked by our radio about withdrawal from Lebanon, Carter said he discussed this subject with President al-Asad because the U.S. Government insists on the departure of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He added that Israel must completely withdraw from Lebanon and that Lebanon should attain its absolute sovereignty over all its lands. He also said: A partial Israeli withdrawal is unacceptable. There must be a comprehensive and complete Israeli withdrawal so the Syrian forces can be withdrawn.

This morning, Carter and his delegation visited the Ash-Shallah farm in Al-Ghutah, which is one of the most modern private-sector farms in Syria. He was welcomed there by Badr ad-Din ash-Shallah, chairman of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce Union. Carter also became acquainted with the landmarks of the Damascus Al-Ghutah. At 1100, the former U.S. president received the president and professors of Damascus University in his place of residence in the Sheraton Hotel. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours.

AS-SAFIR ON ISRAELI RADAR EQUIPMENT IN AL-BIQA'

JN210809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Citing a security source in Al-Biqa', yesterday's edition of the Beirut newspaper AS-SAFIR, reports that the Israeli troops in Al-Biqa' have installed radar and electronic equipment associated with the radar station on Jabal al-Baruk. The source added that the Israeli troops have erected barbed wire fencing around the center to prevent intruders from reaching the area.

On the other hand, Lebanese security sources had earlier commented that setting up this center on Jabal al-Baruk would enable the Israelis to dispense with the services of the AWACS aircraft, adding that the center covers wide areas extending from Italy in the west to Pakistan in the east.

MINISTER AL-'ATTAR ON LEBANON, STRATEGIC BALANCE

JN210930 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA) -- Minister of Culture Dr Najah al-'Attar has affirmed that Israel has substituted its defensive strategy with that of an offensive one, and is now trying to attain all its objectives by force and render the neighboring countries as satellites in its orbit of influence.

Dr al-'Attar, in an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN, published today, added that the attack on the multinational force in Lebanon was primarily meant to demonstrate the impotence of the Lebanese Army in terms of imposing security so Israel could use this as a pretext to continue its occupation, which, according to Zionist Foreign Minister Shamir, would go on for another 3 years.

Dr al-'Attar reiterated that the Zionist occupation poses a permanent threat to Syria's security and also serves as a bridgehead for attacking it.

She added: We have closely and calmly been watching all the recent deliberations in the Knesset over the issue of the occupation. We have also been watching how U.S. and Israeli political and military designs are heading toward the abyss. Dr al-'Attar affirmed that Syria has the power to deal stiffer blows, adding that Syria, in view of its many friends in the world, is confident that the United States is not alone in the area or in the world. She said: We will not cease our efforts to complete the strategic balance, if it has not actually been done already. Dr al-'Attar stressed: The Zionist hawks cannot intimidate us. They should know for sure this time that we also have our hands on the trigger.

Concluding her interview, Dr al-'Attar said that the months that followed the 1982 war in Lebanon have gone. We are in 1983, and despite the short time, many things have changed on the international and local levels. The battle in the U.S. presidential elections has started without Reagan scoring his aspired success to enter and win the battle.

KHADDAM RETURNS HOME FROM LONDON 19 MAR

JN192216 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus tonight from London after attending the meetings held between the Arab seven-member committee, formed at the Fes summit conference, and British officials. During these meetings, the Arab side presented an explanation of the Arab peace plan which was approved by the Arab summit in Fes, and heard British views on this plan.

EGYPTIAN DISSIDENT LEADER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN202131 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhli, secretary general of the Egyptian National Front, has begun a several-day visit to the country during which he will hold talks with members of the party's command. Lt Gen ash-Shadhi arrived in the country this evening and was welcomed by Comrade Sami al-'Attari, member of the party's National Command, and several other party members.

MINISTER AL-KHATIB RECEIVES USSR AMBASSADOR

JN191409 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 19 Mar (SANA) -- Religious Trusts Minister Dr Muhammad al-Khatib this afternoon received USSR Ambassador in Damascus Vladimir Yukhin. The talks dealt with the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries in various spheres. Yukhin asserted his country's stand in support of Syria's just struggle for the Arab cause and its confrontation of imperialist and Zionist challenges to the Arab nation. The religious trusts minister praised the USSR stand in support of Arab rights and just issues.

USSR'S KOSHOYEV DUE IN DAMASCUS 21 MAR

JN210632 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet; is due in Damascus today heading a 4-member delegation for a week-long visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi. The Soviet delegation, while in Syria, will hold talks with a People's Assembly delegation and will meet with party and government officials as well as with PNC members. An itinerary has been prepared to acquaint the friendly delegation with the most prominent economic installations and with the historical, cultural, and tourist sites.

CABINET SESSION REVIEWS SHAMIR'S U.S. TRIP

TA201616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- live or recorded]

[Text] At today's Cabinet session, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reviewed his trip to Washington and his talks there with U.S. Administration leaders. He described the visit positively, speaking of prospects for progress in the negotiations and the good reception accorded him in the U.S. capital. The new U.S. proposals were not submitted for the Cabinet members' decision nor was the Cabinet told what the proposals were. Clear decisions, if there are any, will be made in ministerial consultations being held now with the participation of the prime minister. This practice of submitting the details of the negotiations with Lebanon for discussion by a limited group of ministers has been common during recent weeks, since Moshe Arens was appointed defense minister.

Some Cabinet ministers complained today about the foreign minister's short political report. Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat said that the report was too diluted. He said that he understood that the foreign minister felt uncomfortable, but said it is inconceivable that Cabinet session reports be sparser than those in the press. He said that if there was no desire to report to the Cabinet, the subject should be deleted from the agenda and the Cabinet should be relieved of its responsibility for the matter.

In reaction, Shamir said that the Americans had asked that leaking of the new proposals be prevented as much as possible. Other ministers seconded Ben-Porat's criticism. The prime minister summarized the discussion, and said that while he understood how the ministers felt, he accepted the foreign minister's answer.

For the time being, it is not clear what answers Shamir will give U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib when they meet this evening. As stated, at the moment ministerial consultations are being held in preparation for the meeting. It seems that the proposals are similar to the positions that were formulated in the discussions in Jerusalem prior to Shamir's trip. However, there are still points of contention, the main one being Major Haddad's status in the security zone. In any case, it seems that Israel will ask Habib for further clarifications, and even if the U.S. proposals are accepted, another period of negotiations will be required to formulate a settlement.

A fiery discussion was held during the Cabinet session at the continuing doctors strike. At the center of the discussion was a clash between Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. Shostak said that the way the Treasury was conducting the negotiations was causing a split with the doctors. Aridor said that he had to tell the doctors the truth -- that he cannot comply with all their demands. To this Shostak responded: We are still not living in the real world. A discussion followed, but none of the ministers who spoke supported deviating from the framework agreements in order to meet the doctor's demands. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i attacked income tax authorities for raiding doctors' private clinics, saying this was reprehensible and inconsistent with democracy. Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich agreed. At the end of the discussion, the prime minister said that the negotiations should be resumed as soon as possible. The Cabinet decided that Shostak and Aridor would summon the doctors for a meeting although the latter had not yet responded to the Treasury's proposal to establish a professional committee to arbitrate their demands.

Other subjects at the Cabinet session: Moda'i reviewed his recent trip to Italy in connection with which he criticized the Peace Now movement's increased activity in that country. Everywhere the minister appeared he was told that Peace Now had held or would hold a meeting.

Another subject was the guarding at educational institutions, for which students' parents are responsible. At the Cabinet session, the claim was made that this guarding was perhaps unnecessary. The Cabinet decided that an interministerial committee would reexamine this issue.

Ministers Criticize Report

TA201328 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] In the Cabinet session today, several ministers criticized Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's review of his talks in Washington. Some ministers said that they could not gather from the review what the new U.S. proposals for security arrangements were and how wide the gap is between the Israeli and U.S. positions. Our correspondent Arye Golan notes that Ministers Moda'i, Tzipori and Ben-Porat made comments to this effect. He adds that there was also an argument over the doctors strike.

The Cabinet rejected the coalition executive's proposal to cut 3 billion Israeli shekels from the state budget and decided to suffice with a cut of 1 billion shekels. Our correspondent Gid'on Zelinger reports that the Cabinet decided to entrust Finance Minister Yoram Aridor with the task of submitting a proposal which would enable the increase of welfare allowances by imposing taxes on family allowances for the first and second child. He was also given the job of checking where another 2 billion shekels could be taken from.

SHAMIR MEETS WITH HABIB ON U.S. PROPOSALS

TA202004 Jerusalem Domestic Televison Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib is now meeting Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Habib arrived in Jerusalem in order to get the Israeli Government's answers to the proposals that the U.S. Administration raised for solving the differences of opinion between Israel and Lebanon. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

[Ronen -- live] All indications are that the meeting between Philip Habib and Ministers Shamir and Arens is the first meeting on the path to a settlement in Lebanon, one that will lead -- it is hoped -- to the rapid withdrawal of all foreign forces, including the IDF, from Lebanon. The defense and foreign ministers are now reporting to Habib the Israeli proposals that are in response to the U.S. proposals for a settlement in Lebanon. The proposals were formulated this evening in ministerial consultations headed by the prime minister, which lasted much longer than expected. The consultations ended about an hour ago, and it now seems that there were some ministers who did not want the U.S. proposals accepted as they were, but wanted Israel instead to insist on the positions it had presented before Shamir's visit to the United States -- that is, to insist on IDF presence in southern Lebanon and normalization in stages.

However, the ministers who wanted to reject the U.S. proposals were in a minority. Most of the ministers accept the position of the prime minister, the defense minister and foreign minister who think that the U.S. proposals can serve as a basis for a settlement, and that they definitely merit discussion.

The Americans have moved toward us on the matter of the joint supervision of the Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. armies in the 45-km zone. The Americans still disagree with us on the status of Major Haddad, and on the stationing of UNIFIL forces or a multinational force in southern Lebanon. The negotiations on a settlement in Lebanon now enters a critical phase. Israel's and the United States' positions have become more closer, mainly out of their common desire to reach a settlement as quickly as possible. Some points of contention still remain, and it seems that Habib will have to make several trips back and forth between Jerusalem and Beirut and perhaps Damascus before it will be possible to begin the withdrawal of forces, which will also last weeks, and perhaps a few months.

PERES URGES HUSAYN TO JOIN PEACE TALKS

JN181243 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres has called on King Husayn of Jordan to join the peace negotiations with Israel without preconditions. He also called on the Israeli Government, for its part, to announce its readiness to enter into peaceful talks without preconditions. Mr Peres said: I am making this appeal because I am concerned about the fate of peace due to the presence of Soviet weapons in Syria. It has become necessary for the Arab states to support the U.S. efforts for peace in the Middle East. Mr Peres was speaking at the Jewish-Arab meeting which was held today in Bet She'an.

Our radio correspondent Muhammad Sharif says that, in his speech, Mr Peres spoke about the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. He said that any peace agreement between Israeli and Lebanon must guarantee the security and safety of the inhabitants in the Palestinian camps and that this security must be guaranteed by the multinational force, not the IDF.

HUSAYN REPORTEDLY REFUSES TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS

TA201210 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Mar 83 pp 1, 6

[Report from London by Yohanan Lahav]

[Text] King Husayn has already decided that Jordan will not join peace negotiations with Israel, despite the pleas by President Reagan and the leaders of other Western countries. I learned his yesterday in London from a senior figure in the entourage of the king who came here at head of an Arab League delegation.

When the King was asked by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent at a news conference if he had already decided and, if not, when would he decide, he replied: "This week. This week I will decide whether to join the (peace) process or not. And as soon as the decision is made, I will inform those involved of my decision."

The person from the entourage -- who was more frank because, in contrast to the king, he did not know that I was Israeli -- explained that the Jordanian refusal to join the negotiations would be formulated positively, "so that the blame for the failure will fall on those who are really responsible for it, that is, on Israel." The British, he told me, "welcomed the Jordanian tactics of a refusal formulated in a positive form."

To the question of how a refusal can be formulated positively, the senior Jordanian Administration official said: "The king will announce his willingness to join talks on condition that the United States actually brings about a halt to the Israeli settlements in the conquered territories."

And why is King Husayn looking for a tactical victory, instead of entering into genuine negotiations with Israel? "Because if he enters these negotiations, our Palestinian brothers, those who are now permitting us with a wink to enter the talks will be the first to attack Jordan when they realize that what they want to obtain cannot be obtain- obtained through negotiations."

At King Husayn's news conference -- the first of its type attended by an Israeli journalist -- the king answered my questions differently. "Do you see any possibility of peace between Israel and Jordan this year?" Husayn's answer was: "There will be no peace between Jordan and Israel, not this year and not any other date. What we want is a comprehensive peace based on justice, between Israel and the Arabs in general. Either this comprehensive place is achieved or peace will never be achieved."

Was he prepared to enter talks in accordance with the Reagan plan? Husayn answered: "Since that plan was raised Israel has doubled the settlements in the conquered territories. I will not be able to join talks without a basic change in Israel's approach." He also had other messages:

-- To the United States: Its credibility is under test; whether it is capable of forcing Israel to stop the settlements or not; and if it is capable of guaranteeing Israel's early departure from Lebanon; a mission in which it has not to date succeeded.

-- His Arab brethren: "I have explained to the Arabs, and I continue to explain, that time is pressing, that a catastrophe is upon us."

-- To Europe: Husayn invited "European pressure on the United States" because such pressure produces "positive results."

He said that his upcoming meeting with terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat would be "fateful." While the PLO was taking wise and moderate positions, Israel's positions "detract from the possibility of achieving peace." Nevertheless, "to the day of my death I will work for peace, which is a goal that is sacred for me."

EYTAN COMMENTS ON POLITICAL, MILITARY ISSUES

TA181944 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by military correspondent Dan Semama on 18 March: Place not given -- videotaped]

[Text] [Question] General Eytan, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], 'Arafat's deputy, said yesterday that an IDF force which opened fire at a car in Beirut hit and killed three terrorists and two of our own captives who were with them. How do you interpret this statement and its timing?

[Answer] The IDF spokesman yesterday addressed himself to this statement and totally denied this story.

[Question] How then do you account for the timing and, indeed, the very release? Why, in your opinion, did he make this statement?

[Answer] I have no authoritative or proven explanation.

[Question] Where do the negotiations over the release of our prisoners stand?

[Answer] The negotiations are complex and are being conducted through mediators. I think progress has been made in these negotiations. This does not mean that we have already set the date for enchanging prisoners, or the date when our prisoners will return home. But the very existence of the dialogue, of the negotiations, indicates progress, and gives hope that the captives will be released.

[Question] Is there any sign that the two captives in the hands of Jibril's men are alive? Has anybody seen them?

[Answer] As far as we know, the International Red Cross has not seen them.

[Question] On another subject, Mr Chief of Staff, in recent weeks we have again witnessed a wave of violence in the territories. How, in your opinion, can this violence be curbed? In an interview granted to HA'ARETZ this morning you said that a stick is sufficient against the Arabs in the territories. What are the ways to maintain quiet in Judaea and Samaria without harming the IDF's moral standards?

[Answer] I said it is better not to use guns and that one can settle for sticks. I did not say that in order to demonstrate power one should take a stick and beat whoever one meets there, but that this should be done in order to decrease the intensity of these disturbances. If I said that one should use guns in order to stop the stone throwing, this would have meant something terrible. I think that the present level of rioting in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is not unprecedented.

[Question] As for the Jewish settlers of Judaea and Samaria; we have often heard that they opened fire in the West Bank and that in some cases they decided to take the law into their own hands. How should one act against these people in these cases? How do you view the actions they initiate?

[Answer] The Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria are not in charge of maintaining order. Whoever received arms from the army, and there are many who did, has simultaneously received instructions as to when and under which circumstances he can use the arms. Whoever uses his arms contrary to these instructions will have his arms taken away. They are not in charge of order in Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] Does the IDF intend to take sharp steps against them.

[Answer] Whoever uses his arms illegally or contrary to orders -- the IDF has the means of handling him.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, with your permission, let us go on to another subject. More than a month ago the Kahan Commission's conclusions were released and we have not yet heard your reaction. In its conclusions regarding yourself, the commission states -- and I am quoting here -- that the chief of staff did not heed the danger of acts of revenge and bloodshed on the part of the Phalange toward the populace of the camps and that his refraining from the adopting the measures is tantamount to unfulfilment of duty. The commission members determined your responsibility here but abstained from recommendations due to your upcoming retirement from the chief of staff's post. What is your reaction to this?

[Answer] No comment. I have never reacted and I will not react today.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, the remarks made against you are serious. Have you considered resigning?

[Answer] What is serious?

[Question] The remarks made by the commission are serious.

[Answer] I have said I am not commenting on what the commision said.

[Question] Did you consider resigning?

[Answer] I said I am not reacting to what the commission said.

[Question] With your permission, Mr Chief of Staff, let us go over to the Lebanon issue. There is talk of an agreement with Lebanon soon. In your opinion, is it militarily possible to have an agreement which will not contain IDF patrols or early warning stations in southern Lebanon? Will Israel be able to safeguard peace for the Galilee if there is no such IDF presence in Lebanon?

[Answer] Rather consecutive and frequent -- twice a week, at least -- contacts are underway on the details and the various conditions for security arrangements. This entire issue is subject to treatment, examination, talks, the raising and evaluation of various alternatives. I believe it is too early to respond to your question.

[Question] I have asked only about the military presence. In your opinion, you as an IDF commander, as the chief of staff, is it possible to maintain the safety of the Galilee without an IDF presence in Lebanon?

[Answer] I fully understood your question. I think it is unnecessary now to meddle in the negotiations through a reference from me to such a topic.

[Question] There is again talk of danger of a conflagration between Syria and Israel. SAM-5's have been positioned in Syria. As you see it, does Syria have offensive intentions and does the IDF have an answer to the SAM-5's?

[Answer] We have no intention of going to war against Syria or of initiating any anti-Syrian activity, neither over the new missiles nor for any other reason.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, do you believe that the Syrians have offensive intentions against Israel?

[Answer] We do not know exactly what Syria's intentions are. In my opinion, they should know that by themselves they cannot defeat us, they cannot change our status or the condition of Israel. We do not see any inter-Arab alliance which creates some sort of a bloc which will be able to challenge us in a united manner. Even if such a bloc is created, we have faced and coped with such cases in the past. It may be that the Syrians are considering embarking on something along the lines of the past attrition. This may be, but we have no proof that these are their actual intentions.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, this week the Cabinet approved the appointment of you deputy, Major General Moshe Levi, as the IDF's next chief of staff. It is known that your candidate for chief of staff was Major General Avigdor Ben-Gal. Are you sorry that the defense minister chose another candidate and recommended him to the Cabinet?

[Answer] What do you mean by known? You are stating a fact first and then drawing conclusions on the basis of this fact.

[Question] Are you denying that the candidate you recommended to the prime minister as chief of staff was Maj Gen Ben-Gal?

[Answer] I am neither denying nor confirming. Since you asked me about my deputy, I am only saying that I have been more than 28 years in the army together with Moshe Levi. His first steps in the paratroops were in my company. I know him very well. I am sure he will be a very good chief of staff for the army. He has experience and is liked. He has gone through a great variety of jobs in the army and will be completely acceptable. He knows what should be done.

[Question] Chief of Staff Eytan, you are retiring from your position in a month. You said you will return to carpentry and that during your reserve service you will be a pilot. Is it possible that in addition to this you will be active in politics in Israel?

[Answer] Imagine that I told you yes now. It would then be said: Lo and behold, we have claimed all along that he is a political chief of staff and as he has just said he was going into politics, we were right. He is a political personality. I have no... [interrupted]

[Scemama] Even if you say yes a month after your retirement, the same may still be said.

[Answer] I have no plans to get into politics. I will do what I said.

[Question] You will then be a carpenter and a reserve pilot.

[Answer] I am already a carpenter and a farmer. I do not have to be a reserve pilot. I am a pilot. My job will not be that of an adviser or an aide or a crewman. I am simply a pilot in a squadron. I have a squadron of which I am a member and I will fly as part of it in emergency times just as during drills I will be very useful as such. This is the best thing I can do after my position as chief of staff.

TENSION BETWEEN IDF AND FOREIGN TROOPS INCREASES

Marine-IDF Incident

TA201148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. Marines in the multinational force in Beirut say that yesterday they again prevented an IDF patrol from passing. The Marine spokesman said that two Israeli jeeps arrived yesterday afternoon at a Marine and Lebanese Army roadblock east of the science faculty at the Beirut University. The patrol asked for permission to pass through the area between the region controlled by the Marines and that controlled by the IDF. The spokesman noted that the whole affair was handled by the local military echelons and the Israeli patrol turned back. An Israeli military spokesman in Al-Yarzah said that he cannot find any mention of this incident in his reports.

Italian-IDF Incident

TA201338 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] An Italian television correspondent in Beirut reported at noon on a clash between IDF troops and Italian multinational forces soldiers. According to the correspondent, Israeli soldiers tried to cross through an Italian checkpoint a few days ago. An argument ensued between the Israeli commander and the commander of the Italian contingent, General (Angionni). The argument ended when the Israeli officer asked to have espresso coffee with the Italians. After he had his coffee, he and his soldiers left.

This morning the U.S. Marine spokesman reported that a slight clash occurred yesterday afternoon between an IDF patrol and the Marines. The patrol wanted to cross through a joint Marine-Lebanese Army checkpoint, but when its request was denied it returned.

U.S. MARINE COMMANDER SCORES 'INDISCIPLINED' IDF

TA201428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of the U.S. contingent in the multinational force in Beirut has accused the IDF of endangering the lives of his soldiers and Lebanese citizens due to the indisciplined firing practices and the faulty tactics of the IDF soldiers. Interviewed by an AP correspondent, Colonel James Meade said that Israeli patrols on the Sidon Road, on the edge of the Marines' jurisdiction, were conducting what he termed violent patrols.

According to him, IDF soldiers driving on the road open fire at the adjacent areas to prevent ambushes. He claimed that initially the IDF forces used to fire to areas east of the Sidon road where the U.S. Marines are stationed and shrapnel had hit their positions. Only after repeated requests did the Israelis agree to stop firing and they are now firing only at areas west of the road. Quoting Lebanese sources, the AP correspondent reports that at least five citizens were killed by indiscriminate Israeli fire.

Referring to the incidents between the IDF and U.S. forces, the U.S. commander said that these were almost daily occurrences and that is why he believes they are not accidental. He pointed out that the U.S. Marines have made it clear to the IDF that the Marines are allowed to patrol everywhere because they had been asked to do so by the Lebanese Government wheras the IDF forces are not allowed to patrol the areas controlled by the Marines to carry out their duties, among other places, on the Sidon road. According to the U.S. Marine commander in Beirut, the reason for this refusal are the IDF violent patrols.

In reaction, the IDF spokesman has said that the IDF has gotten used to the groundless allegations of the U.S. Marines and Colonel Meade's remarks are an extension of these accusations.

IDF Denies Charges

TA201848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Israeli army spokesman says Israeli patrols in Lebanon do not open fire in areas where civilians are present. This is in reaction to accusations made by U.S. Marine Colonel James Meade that the Israeli army is endangering civilians and Marines near Beirut by what he called a gross lack of fire discipline. With more details, Shim'on Feinberg:

[Feinberg -- live or recorded] Col Meade claims the Israelis are using a tactic known as reconnaissance by fire or indiscriminately firing into areas along the road of patrols to discourage ambushes. He said this is one of the reasons the Israelis are trying to keep Marines from patrolling in those same areas. Meade said the fire was originally on both sides of the coastal highway, but after the Marines complained that their positions west of the road were catching ricochets, he says the Israelis limited themselves to firing in the east.

Reconnaissance by fire is a tactic that was used in the Vietnamese jungles by the Americans against the Viet Cong. Col Meade says that all it does is endanger other forces or civilians, constituting a gross lack of fire discipline. The AP quotes an unnamed Marine spokesman as saying that some have been killed and wounded by Israeli fire, and the agency quotes a Lebanese official as saying that five civilians were killed last month by the shooting.

In response, the Israel army spokesman said the army knows nothing of any Lebanese civilian casualties caused by Israeli fire. As for Col Meade's accusations, the spokesman says Israel is already used to baseless charges by the U.S. Marines, including those of Col Meade. The spokesman says Israeli patrols do not open fire in populated areas, and he stresses that all shooting done by Israeli forces is controlled fire.

The root of the problem may be in the interpretation of the agreement between the sides concerning areas of control. The multinational force says that although the Israelis are not allowed to patrol in the airport area, which is under their control, they are allowed to patrol and set up roadblocks anywhere in greater Beirut.

The Israelis claim that neither side is allowed into the area controlled by the other. In any case, the verbal battle continues. Shim'on Feinberg reporting.

Col Meade also says the Lebanese Army has detained a suspect in last week's grenade attack on a Marine patrol in which five marines were slightly wounded. Meade told AP that the leading theory is that pro-Iranian Lebanese leftists launched the attack, but he said that no connection has been found between the attack on the Marines and other recent incidents involving the French and Italian contingents.

U.S. ACCEPTS IDF PATROLS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA181404 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Mar 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The United States is ready to accept regular IDF patrols in the security buffer zone in southern Lebanon and continued Israeli reconaissance flights in Lebanese airspace. These are some of the U.S. proposals in the document the U.S. Administration relayed to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday through Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

According to the U.S. proposal, which Jeruslaem describes as far-reaching in comparison with previous U.S. negotiating positions, Israel would be permitted to conduct patrols in the security buffer zone. However, the forces would return daily to Israeli territory so as not to infringe on Lebanese sovereignty.

Israel has abandoned its demand for a permanent presence in Lebanon for a limited time period in the form of warning stations, permanent camps, or other observation posts in the field.

Regarding normalization, the United States has accepted Israel's position that the arrangements be implemented gradually immediately after the achievement of an agreement in the negotiations. The main point of contention between Israel and the United States which remains unresolved is the question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status. Lebanon, with U.S. support, is refusing to grant Haddad any official status in the security arrangements. After meeting with Ambassador Lewis, Shamir went to the prime minister's office, where he reported to Menahem Begin about the positive developments in the U.S. position.

Begin will consult with the foreign and defense ministers today in order to formulate a position for Sunday's Cabinet session which will discuss the new U.S. ideas for a settlement.

Yesterday evening the details of the U.S. proposals were relayed to the defense echelon for the IDF experts' opinion on them. Yesterday evening a senior Foreign Ministry source called the U.S. proposals a large step toward a settlement and said that a good chance has now been created for achieving an agreement in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in the near future. This source said, however, that there are still a few unresolved matters which require a special effort by the negotiating teams.

Special U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib will apparently come to Jerusalem on Sunday to receive the Israeli Government's answer to the new U.S. ideas.

According to Jerusalem experts, the key and as yet unanswered question in the political process in Lebanon is what is Syria's position in the political process, and whether the Syrians will agree to withdraw from Lebanon or adhere to their unyielding position with Soviet egging.

ARENS MAKES MARINE-IDF LIAISON PROPOSAL

TA181703 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1652 GMT 18 Mar 83

["Defense Ministry spokesman's announcement" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 18 Mar (ITIM) -- After he personally examined the situation in Beirut and talked with the IDF commanders, the defense minister has concluded that the present liaison arrangements between the IDF and the U.S. Marines are unsatisfactory and that, in the absence of appropriate liaison arrangements, there is danger for both the IDF soldiers and the Marines.

In order to counter this danger, the following measures should be adopted:

A. A written agreement on the demarcation lines between the two forces as well as on the process of crossing through these lines.

B. Liaison arrangements between the forces which will include, among other things, the presence of an IDF soldier in the Marine unit and a Marine officer in the IDF forces' command in the sector. A direct communication link should also be established between the local forces.

These arrangements should be achieved via direct contacts between the commanders in the field, or alternatively, on a higher level to be determined. The defense minister views it as very urgent and supremely important to reach these arrangements as soon as possible to guarantee speedy and reliable liaison between the IDF units and the Marines in the Beirut area.

More on Proposed Liaison

TA181917 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Israel's proposals to establish a direct contact between U.S. and Israeli officers in Beirut today gained extensive coverage in the U.S. communications media. Yesterday the Israeli Embassy in Washington said that the incidents between the IDF forces and the U.S. Marines are a result of the lack of contact between the two parties.

[Begin U.S. correspondent Elimelekh Ram videotape] While the UNIFIL force and the soldiers of the multinational force in Beirut continue their routine activities, with U.S. General Robert Barrow making grave accusations in the background about IDF soldiers' threats on the U.S. soldiers, the question arising in Washington is whether it was by accident that the Marine commander's letter to the secretary of defense was leaked exactly 24 hours after a handgrenade thrown by a terrorist wounded some U.S. Marines. Is there an intention here to balance [le'azen] the incident by making serious accusations about the IDF soldiers?

Circles in the Israeli Embassy in Washington hope that the United States will consent to set up an efficient system of contacts between the U.S. Marine forces in Beirut and the IDF forces. Such a system which exists with the British, French and Italian units in the multinational force prevents incidents and misunderstandings. For one reason or another, the United States has so far refrained from establishing such a system of contacts. This is Elimlekeh Ram in Washington. [end videotape]

ARENS CALLS WEINBERGER ON MARINE-IDF SITUATION

TA182114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has telephoned U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and informed him he had given strict orders to the IDF forces in Lebanon to refrain from confrontations with the U.S. Marines.

This was stated by a senior U.S. Pentagon official who asked to remain anonymous. He said that Arens called his U.S. counterpart after Gen Robert Barrow, the commander of the U.S. Marines, sent Weinberger a letter in which he demanded that firm action be taken to stop what he called intentional Israeli hits [peti'ot] on the U.S. Marines. According to the senior official, Arens said in the telephone call that the reports of confrontations between IDF soldiers and U.S. Marines cause him a great deal of concern and that he gave strict orders to guarantee that such incidents do not recur in the future. The senior official added that since Moshe Arens assumed office as defense minister the two talk by telephone frequently.

At the same time, the Israeli Embassy in Washington announced that it requested that Israeli liaison officers be stationed in the U.S. Marines' command in Lebanon and vice versa. In a statement to the press, the Israeli Embassy states that following the reports on the incidents Arens left for Lebanon to personally check the matter and concluded that the present liaison arrangements between the IDF and the Marines are insufficient. In order to prevent such incidents, the embassy announcement states, Israel believes that a written agreement should be reached about the demarcation line between the two forces and about boosting the communication means.

However, a State Department official reacted by saying that the United States thinks the liaison arrangements are good and there is nothing that needs improvement. The official said the IDF is not part of the international emergency force but an occupying force and hence one cannot talk about demarcation lines. He noted in fact the demarcation line is not the problem here but rather other facts which the IDF establishes in the area, such as roadblocks.

REPORTAGE ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI TALKS 21 MAR

Meeting With Habib

TA210556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] This morning, the talks between Israel and Lebanon are to be resumed in Netanya, with the participation of the United States. Ambassador Philip Habib is departing for Beirut and Ambassador Morris Draper will head the U.S. delegation. At the discussion held in Jerusalem last night with Ambassador Habib, progress was achieved, but a great deal of work remains to be done. This was said by several of those who took part in the talks. At the meeting, Ministers Arens and Shamir emphasized the great importance Israel attaches to cooperation between the IDF and the Lebanese Army. They also stressed that Israel would not change its positions if the PLO and Syria did not release our prisoners.

Ambassador Habib promised to deal vigorously with an examination of the prisoners' situation. The differences of opinion regarding Major Haddad's future were also not settled.

Netanya Talks Resume

TA210921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] After a recess of 10 days, the talks between Israel and Lebanon, with the participation of the United States, have been resumed. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that proposals for security arrangements in southern Lebanon are on the agenda. Lebanon and the United States are proposing that the Lebanese Army supervise a strip of 45 km in Lebanon while the UN force guards the refugee camps. A multinational force would be positioned in the region between the Al-'Awwali River and Beirut. Lebanon is vigorously opposed to Major Haddad continuing to command his soldiers in southern Lebanon. It does agree to Haddad's personnel being incorporated into the Lebanese Army, which would be stationed in the south of the country, but without their commanders.

Progress Reported in Talks

TA211236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] More progress was reported this morning in the renewed direct contacts between the Israeli and Lebanese negotiatiors in Netanya. The session lasted 2 and 1/2 hours. And from Netanya Vivian Royston reports:

Wet weather this morning held up the arrival of the helicopters bringing the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks in Nrtanya. After a short plenary session, the delegates broke into three subcommittees. Anticipation was running high as Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner stressed that after talks in Washington with the U.S. secretary of state and the U.S. President, it is hoped that an agreement will be reached here in Netanya and Khaldah in face-to-face negotiations with the participation of the United States. Razner said that progress has been made in the past few weeks in the fields of mutual relations and in the field of security. However, there is still a serious security problem, because over the past few years there is a serious buildup of PLO forces in southern Lebanon, and Israel has to see that this does not happen again. Antoine Fattal agreed that security arrangements are still the burning issue. Pazner also said that it was not only Israel who stated concern for security, but that this morning Fattal quoted Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim as saying in Washington that:

[Begin Pazner recording] To insure security is a right for Israel and a duty for Lebanon. [end recording]

The military subcommittee dealt mainly with arms limitations which will be allowed after an agreement is signed. The mutual arrangements subcommittee dealt mainly with the flow of goods and people, and there was a narrowing of positions, especially regarding people. The third subcommittee, which dealt mainly with legal matters, concentrated on how to resolve disputes in the future arising from the agreements, and they also spent time on drafting different formulas regarding the agreements. I asked Pazner what the feeling was at today's talks:

[Begin Pazner recording] All in all, we have today a feeling that further progress was made and we are all looking forward to the next stage of the negotiations, which will take place on Friday, here. [end recording]

Friday's talks are expected to concentrate mainly on security arrangements. Vivian Royston, Netanya.

IDF SOLDIER SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN S. LEBANON AMBUSH

TA181313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] An IDF soldier was slightly wounded from light arms fire which was directed at an IDF vehicle near the village of (Bashmun) southeast of Beirut. This was announced by the IDF spokesman. IDF units began searching the area.

RADIO REPORTS ABU JIHAD INTERVIEW ON POW'S

TA191927 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1920 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 Mar (ITIM) -- The head of the Fatah operations department, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abo Jihad, announced on Saturday evening that the two Israeli soldiers who were killed, as he claimed, by Israeli tank fire in Beirut are not among the Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestinian warriors. Abu Jihad said this in a special interview broadcast in the Hebrew program of Jordanian television.

He renewed his invitation to the mothers of the eight prisoners to visit their sons provided that Israel submits to the Palestinians full lists of the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held in the Ansar camp and in the camps of Sarafand, 'Atlit, and other places. Abu Jihad said that the Palestinian fighters are prepared to allow the International Red Cross representatives to visit the Israeli captives, but again conditioned the visit on the submittal of accurate lists of the Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Abu Jihad even went further to say that the PLO is prepared to release the eight Israeli prisoners on condition that Israel recognizes the Palestinian prisoners as prisoners of war and treats them accordingly.

ITIM correspondent Shefi Gabay brings the contents of the interview with Abu Jihad:

Interviewer: How did it happen that two Israeli prisoners in the hands of the Palestinian fighters died and how did they die?

Abu Jihad: We have announced the killing of two Israeli prisoners, both soldiers, but did not specify in the announcement the exact place where they died. The announcement caused a great deal of commotion since it was thought that the two who died were among the eight prisoners held by the Palestinian fighters. The Israeli authorities know precisely where they died since they determined the place and time of the incident, which occurred on 15 December last year [as received] near Monteverdi in Beirut when two Palestinian fighters, as well as a fighter who is close to the Phalangists, captured two Israeli fighters and put them in a car. They were traveling near an Israeli roadblock when suddenly an Israeli tank opened fire at the car. The Israeli authorities later announced the death of three Palestinians, but this is only half the truth. I suggest that the Israeli authorities examine themselves well.

Interviewer: What about your invitation to the mothers of the Israeli captives?

Abu Jihad: We saw them on television yesterday. We noticed their feelings, their thoughts, that the two prisoners are among the eight prisoners. I am saying that we do not want to play with the feelings of these mothers, and that the two who died are not among these eight. The Israeli leadership, though, has burned out the feelings of thousands of Palestinian mothers. Forty Palestinian fighters were killed in the Ansar camp. Seven mothers of prisoners were injured in the Palestinian camps when they publicly demonstrated against events in Ansar. We are willing to receive the Israeli mothers anytime. We only demanded [darashnu] a list of names of our prisoners detained in Ansar. Israel has submitted a partial list of the prisoners and we have announced that 150 fighters did not appear on this list.

An additional list was then submitted to us with the names of another 125 captives. We now believe that there are another 400 Palestinian fighters and demand a full list. We recently received a letter from wing 31 in the Ansar camp in which we were informed by prisoners that there are many Palestinians and Lebanese there. When the full lists are submitted, the Israeli mothers will be able to visit their sons. We are making an additional proposal: We are prepared to release the Israeli prisoners if Israel announces it will treat our prisoners as prisoners of war.

Further Remarks

TA191815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's deputy, Abu Jihad, said that the two Israeli captives killed in Lebanon are not included among the eight prisoners held in the terrorists' hands. In an interview on Jordanian television, he said that six of the prisoners are in the PLO's hands and two are held by Ahmad Jibril's organization.

Two other Israeli prisoners were killed, according to Abu Jihad, by IDF fire in an incident on 15 February.

Abu Jihad said that the reason why the International Red Cross [IRC] representatives have not as yet visited the two prisoners held by the Jibril organization is that Israel has not presented an accurate list of names of the terrorists who are captive or missing. When such a list is submitted, the IRC representatives will be able to visit the above-mentioned two Israeli captives.

Abu Jihad announced that the PLO is prepared to release all of the eight Israeli prisoners on one condition, that the Israeli authorities recognize the Palestinian captives as prisoners of war.

Reaction of IDF Spokesman

TA191919 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Abu Jihad said he is renewing the invitation extended to the mothers of the eight prisoners to come and visit their PLO-held sons. He said the PLO is willing to release all eight prisoners on condition that Israel recognizes the terrorists captured in the Lebanon war as prisoners of war.

Abu Jihad's announcement that the two people killed are not included among the eight prisoners held by the PLO was received by security circles in Israel with a sigh of relief. This is reported by our military correspondent Dan Scemama. On the incident in Monteverdi, our correspondent notes that the chief of staff and the IDF spokesman have denied that Israelis were hit [nifge'u] in it. Two terrorists and a Lebanese driver they had kidnapped were killed in that incident.

As for Abu Jihad's claim that Israel has not submitted an accurate list of the captives in its hands, the IDF spokesman told our correspondent a few minutes ago that this claim is unfounded. All of the detainees captured in the Lebanon war are in the Ansar camp, and the International Red Cross [IRC] has a full list of the detainees. Our correspondent says that such lists were also given to the PLO when the negotiations over the release of the prisoners took place in Austria.

As for the invitation to the prisoners' mothers, the IDF spokesman said that if Abu Jihad means this seriously, and if the IRC takes the families under its protection and insures their safety, the IDF will gladly make it possible for the mothers to visit their captive sons.

As for conditioning the release of our eight PLO-held prisoners on Israel's recognition of the terrorists it holds as prisoners of war, our correspondent says that the attorney general has already declared that Israel cannot recognize the terrorists as prisoners of war since legally speaking, they do not meet the conditions necessary for such recognition.

Families Ask to Visit POW's

TA181629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Family members of the eight IDF soldiers held prisoner by the terrorists met this afternoon with the head of the Manpower Branch, Major General Moshe Nativ. Our military correspondent reports that they asked Gen Nativ for permission to accept Abu Jihad's invitation to meet the prisoners. One of the mothers, Miryam Grof, told our correspondent that Abu Jihad's statement that two of the prisoners were killed near Beirut from IDF fire is very strange, and that it is possible that it was intended to cause bewilderment. Gen Nativ met with the defense minister before meeting with the families of the prisoners.

Our correspondent notes that Israel has asked the International Red Cross [IRC] to find out about the condition of all eight prisoners. The IDF spokesman has denied Abu Jihad's statement that two of them were killed by IDF fire near Beirut.

MK Yosi Sarid called on Abu Jihad to clarify his statement and to report on the condition of all the prisoners. He stressed that there is nothing worse or more shameful than maltreating the feelings of families whose sons are imprisoned.

USSR WARNS REACTION IF SYRIAN MISSILES ATTACKED

TA181633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet Union has warned Israel through the United States not to attack the modern missiles stationed in Syria. The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR correspondent in Moscow quotes a senior Soviet official as saying that if Israel decides to attack the missiles, the Soviet Union has a reaction plan. The official stressed that the missiles were stationed in Syria in order to make clear the Soviet Union obligation to Damascus after the war in Lebanon.

Tzipori on Soviet Warning

TA181718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Communications Minister Mordkehay Tzipori thinks that the Soviet threats directed against Israel should be interpreted as an attempt to cool the atmosphere and prevent a flare-up between Israel and Syria. He told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that if the Soviets were interested in heating up the situation they would not have warned against a flare-up. In Tzipori's opinion, Syria disappointed the Soviet Union and the failure of Soviet weapons was a political and military blow. The communications minister also expressed the hope that Defense Minister Moshe Arens will renew the discussions over establishing a land forces command in the IDF and will carry out a Cabinet decision to reorganize the IDF.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE SEMINAR HELD IN JERUSALEM

TA200922 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj yesterday urged that "the silent peace-loving majority should no longer remain silent" because in another 12 months there will be "nothing left to talk about," between Israelis and Palestinians. He was speaking at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel at the closing session of a three-day seminar organized by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East.

"Our enemies are the extremists on both sides," declared Frayj.

Attending the seminar were 14 Knesset members from all parties and Arab personalities from the West Bank and Gaza. Among those present were Abba Eban, Naftali Blumenthal and Aharon Har'el from the Labour Party. Ya'ir Tzaban and Muhammad Watad from MAPAM, Mordekhay Virshubski from Shinui and Ari'el Weinstein from the Likud liberals. Dr Hatim Abu-Ghazalah from Gaza also addressed the seminar.

Among the topics discussed were the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, the possible role of King Husayn in peace talks and the role of the superpowers in the Middle East conflict.

The International Centre for Peace in the Middle East was established last September by author David Shaham, Willi Gafni and Arye Ya'ari of the journal NEW OUTLOOK. It is sponsored by retired Supreme Court Justice Hayim Cohn, Eban, Meron Benfenisti, Professor Sha'ul Friedlander, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg and others.

EGYPT UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ISRAELI IMPORTS

TA201010 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Mar 83 p 5

[Report by Avraham Dishon]

[Text] For the time being, no change is to be expected in Egyptian policy on the matter of granting licenses for imports from Israel. This was explained to representatives from Israel who participated in an international food exhibition in Egypt. They were told that as long as there is no change in Israeli policy in Lebanon, a renewal of the economic links with Egypt is not to be expected at all.

Egyptians who want to buy agricultural produce from Israel (breeding hens, bananas, applies and so on) are not being given import licenses.

In contrast to this, trade between Israel and Lebanon is rising sharply. Lebanon buys large quantities of avocadoes, bananas, mangoes, kiwi fruit, and other things from Israel. Israel has decided not to export apples to Lebanon because Lebanese farmers would suffer. Given the quantities Lebanon is purchasing from Israel, it appears that some of the produce is being sent to other Arab countries.

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ON TIES WITH ISRAEL

TA191243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The president of Venezuela suggested extending cooperation with Israel. He brought up his suggestions in a talk with MK Gad Ya'aqobi, the chairman of the Knesset Economics Committee, who is taking part in an economic symposium in Caracas, which is intended to mark the 25th anniversary of democracy in Venezuela.

ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH NEW TRANSMITTER IN ZEFAT

TA191019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] In order to improve reception of Israeli radio and television broadcasting in the north, the Communication Ministry intends to establish a new transmitter in Zefat which will be five times stronger than the transmitter working today.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that the reception problems are due to strong transmitters that were put by Jordan and Egypt near the borders of Israel. The Communication Ministry will enhance the strength of the transmitters in the areas of Tiberias and the Jordan Valley as well.

JORDAN RIVER MOVES WESTWARD, BOUNDARY CHANGING

TA191716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The Israeli-Jordanian border in the northern Jordan Valley area has moved westward by several dozen meters in recent days. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that due to a large flow of water in the Jordan River, large quantities of land have been swept from the West Bank of the river and since the water line is the international border, this means that the border has moved. Our correspondent notes that the road running along the border has moved to the Jordanian side in several places due to new bends in the river. Security elements in the region told our correspondent that Israel has lost areas amounting to several dozen dunams.

More on Jordan River Shift

TA192016 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2010 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Tiberias, 19 Mar (ITIM) -- Dozens of dunams of land in the northern Jordan valley area moved into the area under Jordan's control during this past winter.

It has been learned that due to the large flow of water in the Jordan River, which is the natural boundary between Israel and Jordan, large quantities of land were swept from the west bank of the river to the other side.

In many places, especially in the northern Jordan valley, it is possible to see the road running along the border beyond the river and this compelled the IDF to repair the road in many areas.

Military elements do not recall a case where the border "moved" in such a way, and they attribute this to the hard winter this year, when the Jordan River overflowed numerous times and swept large blocs of land.

It was reported that the IDF does not intend to take any action to change the situation since this development could have happened the other way around -- if the flow of water had been in the opposite direction.

TEMPLE MOUNT CASE SUSPECTS RELEASED ON BAIL

TA210924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court has released on bail the 29 people suspected of breaking into the Temple Mount, but it has ordered that they be kept under house arrest. They were released on bail of 15,000 shekels each and ordered not to leave their homes other than for the synagogue on Saturdays and holidays until the end of the proceedings against them. This has been reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

ETHIOPA TO PERMIT PASSOVER GIFTS TO JEWS

TA211220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat has announced that the Ethiopian Government has agreed to deliver matzot [ritual unleavened bread for Passover] from Israel to the Falashas for the Passover Seder service. Yesha'yahu Ben-Barukh, a Falash who has settled in Israel, returned from Ethiopia at the end of last week and has reported that the Jews there are suffering from famine and are discriminated against -- dismissed from places of employment on the claim that the Zionists will look after them. He called emotionally for the Jews of Ethiopia to be rapidly saved.

LIBYA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY JALLUD, JABIR TO USSR

Jallud's Dinner Speech

LD181957 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow, Jumada ath-Thans 4, Mar 18, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud stressed the special importance of the current visit to Moscow by a Libyan Arab delegation to the Soviet Union in order to bolster and develop cooperation between all peace-loving people who seek good in the world. He pointed out that such contacts and consultations have become urgent and important at this time in order to coordinate positions against imperialism, reaction, and racism.

Speaking at a dinner give in his honour last night by Mr Nikolay Tikhonov, Politbureau member and Soviet prime minister, Staff Major Jallud went on to say that the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the Arab nation and the international imperialist onslaught gives added dimensions which make coordinated between the Arab nation and the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union more important.

He added: The American Administration reaction and imperialism aim to undermine our progressive socialist achievements for the good of our people. This administration dates back to the age of feudalism, the opposing of democratic forces in the world, the policy of intimidation and its use to repress the peoples of the world.

Staff Major Jallud said: We now witness an alternative American colonialism to European colonialism, in the form of bases, monopolies, and Rapid Deployment Forces. We, the small nations, have a choice between rejecting America and suffer punishment or accept America and submit that America is God on earth. We also see a new Nazism in the shape of Reagan and his thinking, Begin and Sharon the Zionists. Nazism is the same even with change of positions and forms, for it is always the product of force and domination.

He added: The enemy's front embodied in American imperialism, Zionism and reaction is bent on confronting the peace loving progressive forces and that capitalism represents a military enemy. It is Reaganomics which is based on domination.

He pointed out that: What happened in Lebanon was the biggest barbaric operation seen in the twentieth century, in the face of which the United Nations and Security Council stood helpless. He described the plight of the Palestinian people as a reminder of the barbarism of the Reagan administration and Zionism.

The Zionist imperialist onsalught against the Lebanese people and the Palestinian revolution, Staff Major Jallud added, has undermined the progressive forces in the Arab world and tipped the balance in favour of the reactionary and imperialist forces. He said: After Lebanon, the Reagan administration thinks the region is open before it and the Reagan plan which is aimed at subjugating the region and destroying the Palestinian people.

"We are now witnessing the return of U.S. neo-colonialism to the Arab and African regions. Those regions are being threatened by the U.S. alliance with the racist South African regime. The peace and security of countries like Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, and all the African front-line countries have now become threatened, as is the case in Latin America where this alliance is attempting to undermine Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua."

He continued: "The choice before us is difficult. We either surrender or die. The Libyan Arab people have decided to die.

"We shall resist the repeated provocations by the U.S. Administration, its fleet, and its psychological warfare by which it is preparing world public opinion for an aggression against us."

Concluding his speech Staff Major Jallud stressed that small nations of the world seek peace since it is the path to goodness. He said: "The Libyan people join the forces of peace and call for disarmament. We attach importance to the U.S. and Western initiatives for peace and disarmament, and likewise, welcome the Soviet initiative for peace. However, peace cannot be achieved by one side only and our strength is essential to impose peace upon the U.S. which is proceeding to escalate aggression and develop economic disorder in the world. Thus, we believe in ending monopolies and enabling the people to control their resources and setting up a just economic order which would remove the spectre of war and achieve a just peace.

At the start of the dinner banquet Mr Tikhonov praised the cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union in the various fields and expressed the hope that this would be strengthened further still. Mr Tikhonov pointed to the world's current deepening crisis caused by imperialist and Zionist aggression in a bid to undermine the progressive forces in the world. He, therefore, stressed the need for the consolidation of all the world's progressive forces to arrest the continuous imperialist schemes to impose hegemony over peace and freedom-loving people."

Delegation Returns 18 Mar

LD182317 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, have concluded a working visit of several days to the Soviet Union. They returned to Tripoli yesterday [18 March evening.

Joint Communique Issued

LD191450 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 83

["Text" of joint statement issued in Libya and USSR on visit by Libyan delegation, led by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, to the USSR]

[Text] At the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and of the Soviet Government, Brother Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud paid a cordial working visit to the USSR from 16 to 18 March 1983 at the head of a high-ranking Libyan Arab delegation comprising Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and a number of secretaries.

The Libyan Arab delegation was accorded a warm welcome manifesting the depth of friendship between the Libyan Arab and Soviet peoples.

Important and intensive talks were held between Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The talks were attended by the delegations of both countries and were held in an atmosphere of friendship and amity and in a spirit of friendship and understanding.

During the visit, a meeting took place between Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and minister of defense. Another meeting took place between Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister.

During their talks, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries and affirmed once more their determination to bolster and deepen them for the good of the two friendly peoples. They also affirmed the importance of continuing regular personal contacts between the leaders of both countries.

Reviewing the current international situation and the peace-threatening tensions surrounding it, the two sides expressed their anxiety over the grave deterioration witnessed by the world because of the aggressive policy pursued by the imperialist forces and underlined their agreement about the need to strengthen the efforts of peace-loving forces to defend the legitimate interests, rights, and sovereignty of the peoples and to stand against the imperialist plans which are threatening international peace and security.

The two sides pointed out that the aggressive course pursued by the imperialist forces, headed by the United States, with the aim of practicing aggression against the peoples, of escalating strategic balance, has led to tension in the international situation. They also noted that the plans to deploy modern U.S. medium-range nuclear weapons in Western Europe are posing an increasing danger to the security of the countries in Europe, the Mediterranean Sea basin, and the Arab region. In this connection, the two sides called on all states to adopt decisive measures to prevent the outbreak of a nuclear war, to put a stop to the arms race, and to reduce nuclear and conventional weapons on the basis of parity and equal security.

The Soviet side expressed its high appreciation for the foreign policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and for its role in struggling for and supporting the peoples' struggle for peace and against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, and reaction. The Libyan Arab side also expressed its high appreciation for the role of the Soviet Union in preserving and strengthening world peace and for the Soviet peace initiatives, including the Soviet Union's commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and its proposal to freeze nuclear weapons in Europe and to reduce strategic weapons.

The two sides declared their opposition to the plans of the Atlantic alliance to deploy new medium-range American missiles in Europe. They welcomed the positive initiatives contained in the political statement of the Warsaw Pact member-states dated 5 January 1983. They pointed out that the implementation of the proposal for an agreement between the Warsaw Pact countries and the Atlantic alliance on the mutual nonuse of military force and on the maintenance of peaceful relations [words indistinct] extreme importance for improving the political atmosphere in Europe.

It was pointed out during the talks that while responsibility for halting the arms race and keeping away the threat of a nuclear war rests with the countries possessing nuclear weapons or huge military capabilities, all countries, irrespective of their size and the extent of their influence in international relations, should contribute to the common efforts being exerted toward this end.

The USSR condemned the American aggressive provocations and threats recently directed against the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah represented by the provocation by some units of the American 6th Fleet and the American early warning aircraft. It affirmed its support for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its denunciation of these provocations by American imperialism with a view to intimidating the Libyan Arab people. It also expressed its support for and solidarity with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's right to defend itself, its sovereignty, and the sanctity of its lands, skies, and territorial waters.

The two sides denounced the psychological and propaganda campaign being waged, which is tantamount to a prelude to and preparation for an American aggression against the Libyan Arab people.

The USSR affirmed its consistent and firm stand on the side of the Libyan Arab people in their struggle against all sorts of economic, military, and propaganda aggressions.

During their in-depth discussion of the grave situation in the Arab arena, the two sides affirmed that tension in the area is due to the constant occupation of the Arab lands and to the aggressive expansionist policy pursued by the Zionist enemy with the encouragement of American imperialism and with its support. They paid special attention to the Zionist aggression in Lebanon and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory. They strongly denounced this aggression and the mass annihilation methods used against the unarmed Palestinians and Lebanese, particularly the massacres at Sabra and Shatila camps. They expressed their support for the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian Arab people and the progressive Lebanese forces against the Zionist occupation.

They demanded the comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invasion force from all Lebanese territories and the safeguarding of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and independence.

The two sides expressed their opposition to the conditions which the United States and the Zionist enemy are trying to impose on Lebanon and which aim at detracting from its sovereignty and independence.

The two sides denounced the policy of capitulation and separatist solutions of the Palestine question. They also strongly denounced the escalating American military presence and interference in the area, which are the direct result of the capitulationist stable [Camp] David accords, which threaten the stability, security, and peace of the peoples of the area and their quest to assert their national independence.

The two sides reiterated that no just and lasting peace can be achieved except through the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories. In this regard, they affirmed the need for unconditional and complete withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of the legitimate national rights of the Palestine Arab people including their right to self-determination with free will and the establishment of their independent state in their homeland.

The two sides support the struggle waged by the Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of the PLO.

The two sides reiterated their denunciation of the stable David accords and their rejection of the so-called Reagan initiative and America's unilateral handling of the Palestine question on the ground that it is not an unbiased party and is hostile to the Arab nation and to the Palestinian people.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the USSR firmly denounced the Zionist military provocations against the Syrian Arab Republic and affirmed their support for the struggle of the Syrian people against the intrigues of the Zionist aggressors and their imperialist mentors.

The USSR supports the unity of the Arab countries and peoples on the basis of the struggle against imperialism.

The two sides reviewed the present situation in the Mediterranean Sea basin. They stressed the need to remove the existing hotbeds of tension in the region and their readiness to make constructive efforts to strengthen peace, security, and cooperation to serve the well-being of the peoples of this region.

The two sides agreed on the need to turn the Mediterranean Sea basin into a region of peace and cooperation. They also stressed that Europe's security is firmly linked with the security of the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea basin. The two sides expressed the hope that the Madrid meeting of the representatives of the socialist countries [as heard] at the CSCE will successfully conclude its work to help clear the political atmosphere in Europe and lead to an improvement of the situation in the Mediterranean Sea basin.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the African Continent. They expressed their deep anxiety about the situation due to the rising imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of the countries of the continent and the expansion of its activities, plots, and aggressive acts against the unity of the continent and its states whose policy seeks to challenge and confront colonialism and imperialist influence in all spheres. This poses a serious threat to the independence and sovereignty of the African states. In this connection, the two sides stressed the importance of the Organization of African Unity in the struggle for peace, independence, and progress on the continent. They underlined the role being played by the organization against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism, and all forms of imperialist hegemony and pressure. The two sides also strongly condemned all attempts to cause rifts among the African countries and the attempts to weaken the organization.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with the peoples struggling for freedom and independence, and their complete rejection of all forms of hegemony, colonialization, and the policy of racial discrimination pursued by imperialism. They strongly condemned the armed aggression carried out by the racist regime in South Africa against Angola, Lesotho, and Mozambique. They expressed the firm support of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and of the Soviet Union for the independence of Namibia in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and their determination to continue to support SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia. The two sides expressed their support for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in its struggle for national independence and sovereignty. They also underlined the need for a political settlement to the situation surrounding Afghanistan, which must include definite guarantees of a total halt to foreign interference, in all its forms, by the imperialist and reactionary forces in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Both sides condemned the decision of the U.S. Government concerning the formation of the so-called strategic Central Command whose field of operations includes a big region of southwest Asia and the Middle East. This is an attempt to arrogate the right to intervene militarily in the countries of this region, and they categorically rejected the attempts by the American Administration to impose its will on other countries and peoples.

Both sides confirmed the important role played by the nonaligned in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and racism and against the forces of war and aggression. They expressed satisfaction over the constructive resolutions passed by the Seventh Nonaligned Summit which confirmed the desire of the peoples of the world to live a life of stability and international security.

Both sides expressed their firm belief that the continuing cohesion of the nonaligned countries will facilitate the enhancement of their role in international affairs, the achievement of a comprehensive and final solution to colonialism, and the reorganization of international economic relations on just and democratic principles. Both sides announced that they regard the United Nations as an important rostrum for the unification of the efforts of states to establish world peace and security and they pointed to the importance of the increased effectiveness of the United Nations in the settlement of complex international problems.

Both sides expressed their support for the demands of developing countries concerning the establishment of a new international economic order, guaranteeing these countries control and use of their natural resources and wealth in the service of their economic development. They pointed to the importance of restructuring international economic relations on a just and equitable basis. Both sides support the elimination of all forms of colonialist exploitation and neocolonialism and the removal of all barriers and discrimination in international trade and oppose the artificial reduction of the prices of oil and other raw materials exported by developing countries.

In the course of the talks, both sides analyzed in detail the current state of and future scope for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They recorded satisfaction that this cooperation is developing successfully. They confirmed their mutual endeavor to firmly establish and broaden this cooperation on the basis of a long-term and mutually beneficial program. They entrusted the specialist institutions to discuss the development of existing cooperation in the field of energy, mining, economy, gas and oil, and the training of national cadres and sort forth.

It was agreed in principle to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Both sides expressed their deep satisfaction with the results of this fruitful visit.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud also expressed his thanks and that of the delegation accompanying him to Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, for the welcome accorded him during this visit.

On behalf of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud invited Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He also invited Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The two invitations were accepted with thanks and their dates will be fixed later.

TASS 'Text' of Communique

For the TASS "text" of the joint communique issued on the visit to the USSR by 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 21 March issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

CHAD

CONTINUING RADIO BARDAI REPORTAGE 17 MARCH

Battle at Chari-Baguirmi

AB171925 Bardai Chadian National Radio [Anti-Habre] in French 1820 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The liberation struggle process is definitely in progress. From all parts, the fighters of the national liberation continue to harass the national annihilation forces. In this connection, our Ndjamena permanent correspondent has reported that the valiant liberation fighters have attacked the (Banchou) military barracks in Chari-Baguimi.

The attack caused about 15 dead among the antinational forces. Before pulling out of the locality, the liberation army unit set fire to the military barracks. Our correspondent further reports that 200 people injured among the FAN in the recent fights in the north of the country were evacuated to a military hospital in Cairo, Egypt. Among them are two outstanding FAN officers known as Khartouma Amini and Angatanseh. The evacuation of the injured was decided on because the Ndjamena hospitals are overcrowded. The irony of the situation is that shortly after his arrival in Ndjamena, Hissein Habre decided to close down the world medic hospital in Ndjamena, in view of the return of peace to the country, as he said. There is no better denial to that demagogical assertion than the recent military developments.

NLA Operating at Will

AB172152 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] In spite of the omnipresence of (?patrols) in Ndjamena, elements of the National Liberation Army [NLA] are operating in Ndjamena like fish in the water. In this regard, in the night from 28 to 29 February 1983 between 0200 and 0300, a commando unit of the NLA destroyed several vehicles belonging to the natural allies of the FAN in the [words indistinct]. On 23 February, the FAN elements searched all houses in Ndjamena for a prisoner said to be on the run. Searching and checking of identity cards were systematically effected in Ndjamena. Did they find him? This is the question we want to put to them.

Americans Wounded in Gouro Battle

AB172055 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena has told us that on the occasion of the forceful return of some Chadian refugees from Nigeria, the fighters of the national annihilation forces stationed along the Chari River exacted large ransoms from their expelled brothers. Such acts led to disorder during which automatic rifle fire was heard. A stray bullet killed a person on the Cameroonian side of the river while in Ndjamena, Kousseri, and Maiduguri there were rumors of the murder of four women by the terrorists of the national annihilation forces. Their bodies were found in the Chari River. According to our correspondent, some women whose names we have and who sell alcoholic drinks in Kousseri might be accomplices of the national annihilation forces which kidnap (?people) and kill them.

On 23 February 1983, three Americans who had been seriously wounded during the Gouro battle were evacuated on board a Transall aircraft to an unknown destination.

Government Wants French Help

AB172049 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Crushed and pursued like rabbits in the northeast, the center and the east of the country, the antinational forces are now looking to their foreign protectors. According to our correspondent in Ndjamena, a delegation of the renegade clique is currently in Paris where it pleaded with the Mitterrand government to make available to the authorities in Ndjamena big troop carriers for the airlifting of cannon fodder [FAN soldiers]. We know that the national annihilation forces can no longer use the land routes because of the presence of liberation forces on the various strategic roads.

Meanwhile, our correspondent has reported that an airlift service has been established between Ndjamena and Cairo. In this connection, a troop carrier was shot down by the national liberation army. The aircraft crashed near Abeche and no one aboard survived the incident.

Israel Gives Chadians Training

AB172051 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] We have learned that during the summer holidays, 17 Chadian students will be sent to Israel. During their stay in the Zionist state, the students will undergo paramilitary training and a course in terrorist principles.

The information confirms the existence of close ties between the Zionists and Habre with the support of French and American imperialism.

COMMUNIQUE STRESSES RIGHT TO DEFEND TERRITORY

AB201126 Paris AFP in French 1402 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The Chadian Government "reserves the right to use every means to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," stresses a communique broadcast over the official radio Chad on Saturday. According to the communique, read by Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila, the Ndjamena government is seeking the support of international opinion and institutions in its efforts to settle the conflict between it and Libya peacefully, but stressed that "this wish for a peaceful solution should not be interpreted as weakness. It should be recalled that Chad had already officially announced its "willingness and readiness" to seek the help of any country in order to defend its security and independence in the face of any imminent Libyan aggression. Ndjamena has also called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to examine the "Libyan threat" to Chadian territory.

In the communique broadcast on Saturday, Hissein Habre's government says Libya demonstrated its readiness to flex its muscles and to dominate during the contacts the two countries had "a few days ago," referring to the direct conversations entered into in early March, and the suspension of which was confirmed by Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine in New York on Friday.

The communique stated that during the contacts Libya insisted "among other things," that Chad should proclaim "an Islamic and Arab republic" and recognize "the Chad-Libya border as it is presently drawn by Libya."

Since 1973, Libya has been occupying the northern part of Chad, called Aouzou Strip, which is an integral part of Chad according to Ndjamena.

GOVERNMENT MAY ASK ICJ TO CONSIDER AOUZOU DISPUTE

AB190742 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] United Nations, New York, March 19 (AFP) -- The U.N. Security Council, which has been asked to consider urgently the territorial dispute between Chad and Libya, may ask the International Court at The Hague to rule on the status of the Aouzou Strip, in northern Chad, currently occupied by Libya and thought to be rich in uranium. Council sources said Chad had no hope of mustering the nine council votes needed to condemn Libya's occupation and its alleged "repeated aggression" against Chad, and that referral to the court could avoid a deadlock. The Soviet Union, Poland and eight non-aligned countries would be unwilling to vote against Libya, even if they did bar a delegation of the Libya-backed ousted President Goukouni Oueddei from the recent nonaligned summit in New Delhi, the sources said.

The precedent of the Libyan-Maltan Sea limits dispute was being cited as a case referred to the world court. The council is not expected to meet before Monday. In a letter to the council released Friday, Libya formally refused to give up the 150,000 sq km strip which borders Libya and has been occupied by Tripoli since 1973. The area was part of Libya, the letter said, and "not an inch" of it would be yielded. The regime of Hissene Habre in Ndjamena accuses Libya of stepping up its military presence in the north as a prelude to occupying more Chadian territory and of daily violating Chadian air space.

Meanwhile, Chambi Olona, minister of information and mobilisation in Mr. Goukouni's rebel government based in northern Chad, denounced the call for a Security Council meeting and said it was an American-inspired move in the wake of recent charges by Washington that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was plotting to oust President Ja'far Numayri of neighbouring Sudan. Accusing Egypt, Sudan and Zaire of trying to meddle in Chad's affairs, he claimed in a rebel radio broadcast that the insurgents were on the verge of taking the town of Fada and were besieging the larger town of Faya Largeau. Advances were being made elsewhere, he said, and the Habre forces in central Chad were "encircled." This was why Mr. Habre had internationalised the conflict and sought foreign help, he claimed.

In Paris, Chadian Charge d'Affaires Allam-mi Ahmad said Friday that although talks between Chad and Libya had been broken off, "informal contacts" were being maintained. Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine has said that talks were broken off earlier this month because Libya had made "unacceptable" demands. Mr. Ahmad said Tripoli wanted a declaration of Chad's Arabness, a strategic alliance between the two countries and abolition of the Libyan-Chadian border.

ZAIRE

PRESIDENT MOBUTU RESHUFFLES CABINET 18 MARCH

AB181431 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1230 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Report by correspondent Simon Bistine at Mont Ngaliema Palace on the ordinances relating to the 18 March Cabinet reshuffle and signed by Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko]

[Text] There are five state commissioners who have been dropped from the Executive Council, there are seven who are entering the council and three have changed portfolios. Let us now look at the ordinances:

Ordinance No 83/081 of 18 March 1983 relating to the appointment of members of the Executive Council: the founding chairman of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR] and president of the republic, considering the Constitution and particularly Articles 38, 42, 45, and 99 decrees:

Article 18 the functions of the state commissioner for national defense, territorial security, and retired servicemen is performed by the founding-chairman of the MPR and president of the republic;

Article 28 Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo is appointed first state commissioner;

Article 38 The following have been appointed state commissioners:

Territorial affairs	Munongo Mweda M'siri
Foreign affairs and international cooperation	Kamanda Wa Kamanda
Justice	Mozagba Ngbuko
Information, culture, and arts	Kande Dzambulate
Planning	Namwisi Ma Nkoy
Finance and budget	Ngole Iliki
Agriculture, rural development, and environment	Kamikatu Massamba
Economy, industry, and foreign trade	Nyembo Shabani
State investments	Pay Pay Wa Kasige
Mines and energy	Umba Kamitala
Public works and territorial development	Bokana Wiondangela
Transport and communications	Inonga Lokongo Lome
Land affairs	Yoka Mangono
University and higher education	Sampasa Kaweta Milombe
Primary and secondary education	Makinda Wata Wata
Scientific research	Bayona Ba Miya
Public health	Dr Kibatu Mubaye
Social affairs	Mata Nkumu Wa Bowango
Civil service	Kilolo Musampa Lubemba
Labor and social securi	Kande Buloba Kasumpata
Posts and telecommunications	Mukuku Wetonda
General Commissioner for Sports and Leisure	Tshobo Ngona
General Commissioner for Tourism	Ndjoli Balanga

Article 48 Any previous provisions contrary to the present ordinances are repealed.

Article 58 The present ordinance take effect on the date signed.

Issued in Kinshasa on 18 March, 1983.

Signed: Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Waza Banga, field marshal

Ordinance No 83/082 of 18 March, 1983 relating to the appointment of secretaries of state of ministries: the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic; considering the Constitution and particularly Articles 26, 42, and 43; considering Act No 81 003 of 17 July 1982 concerning the status of public servants of the state; considering ordinance No 78/156 of 18 April 1978 supplementing and modifying ordinance No 73/216 of 25 July 1973 determining the organization of public services of the state including national educational service, the administrative service of the Legislative Council and the judiciary service, decrees:

Article 18 The following have been appointed secretaries of state for:

National defense and retired servicemen: Vice Admiral Lomponda Wa Rotende for national defense

Retired servicemen	General Dikuta Ebilansang Kambinga
Territorial administration	Mbumba Ngimbi
Foreign affairs	Kimasi Mateiku
International cooperation	Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga
Justice	Tanzu Lemo
Information, culture and arts	Masegabio Nzanzu
Planning	Bossekota Watshia
Finance	Buendwa Bua Mushaba
Budget	Tshibambe Kabamba
Agriculture	Mwamba Ndumba
Rural development, environment and nature conservation	Kaka Pauni Zebo
Economy and industry	Mbatshi Batsha
Foreign trade	Donge Yaganga
State investments	Ilunga Ilukamba
Mines and energy	Pendje Demodetdo Yako
Public works and territorial development	Kibangula Kia Makonga
Transport and communications	Bongo Lega
Land affairs	Mbamba Ganga
University and higher education	Samba Kaputo
Primary education	Nzegbe Aliazia Mbina
Secondary education	Matukanga Mbalu
Civil service	Citizen Koyinale Eyofunda
Labor and social security	Citizen Kisolokele Wamba

Article 2: All former provisions contrary to the present ordinance, which comes into force on the date of its signing, are repealed.

Signed on 18 March 1983 by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbebdu Wa Za Banga

Commentary Discusses Reshuffle

AB191311 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0930 GMT 19 Mar 83

[AZAP commentary: "The Meaning of a Reshuffle"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 Mar (AZAP) -- The most important decision of mid-March came on Friday at Mount Ngaliema [presidential palace] at a brief weekly meeting presided over personally by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding president of the MPR and president of the republic.

The extent of the restructuring of the Executive Council -- one third of its members are affected -- demonstrates, undoubtedly, the concern of the guider of revolution to set up a homogenous and dynamic team, composed of competent men who are integrated and capable of efficiently assisting the first state commissioner in implementing the policy of renovation and rigor, as was defined at the third ordinary MPR congress.

Rigor and discipline in managementand in work practice have in fact become the watchwords of the administration, to quote the founding president. After proclaiming 1983 a year of rigor in his New Year message to the constituted bodies and announcing a policy of renovation at the end of the congress, the head of state has now carried out a restructuring of the Executive Council.

To do this, he provided himself with some necessary time for thought. This explains his several trips on the river which have enabled him to watch events and to assess the situation comprehensively in the quietness which this solitude has afforded him.

The present restructuring is therefore the outcome of the personal reflections of the head of state and the conclusions arrived at by the seminar evaluating the Executive Council's activities held at Nsele recently.

One striking thing in this reshuffle is the fact that it was not limited to a simple change of men. It touches on the very structures of the Executive Council and it extends ot the territorial and justice administrations.

At the level of the Executive Council, the division of the Department of Health and Social Affairs into two sectors demonstrates the desire expressed by the guide to henceforth make the Executive Council give more attention to social problems among its areas of concern. At the same time, it introduces some flexibility in the management of these departments.

A general commissariat for tourism has been set up and Citizen Ndjoli has made a remarkable return to head this department. This measure aims at giving this sector the vitality it has been lacking.

Another innovation in the restructuring exercise is the upgrading of the General Commissariat for Planning to the level of an autonomous department, while in the past it was closely attached to the presidency of the republic.

This development shows that the presidency, through this logical decision, had handed over the day-to-day administration of services like ZOFI [expansion unknown] Gecamines [General Quarries and Mines Company] and [Zairian Company for the Marketing of Ores] to the Executive Council, which now has responsibility for their day-to-day administration.

Beyond all these changes and innovations in the day-to-day running of the affairs of the states, one can note the permanent choices of the party as well as the policy defined by the head of state to ensure continuity in change.

The style and methods of work must change and give way to greater discipline and follow up in the management of state affairs. The head of state also wants greater clarity implementing the state budget with a view to continuing the reorganization of public finances as well as the economic recovery which has begun to show signs of life during the first three mohths of 1983.

This explains that the replacement of the team at the head of the Finance and Budget Department (the state commissioner and the secretaries of state) demonstrates the need to maintain and even strengthen the political direction of departments responsible for the economy. Thus, secretariats of state for state investments and external trade have been reestablished.

Thus, this restructuring comes at a time when a general recovery effort has been noted in the production sectors and on the eve of the visit of an IMF mission to Zaire. The mission is to assess the desire of the Executive Council to achieve the greatest possible results.

Cabinet Appointees Sworn In

AB191243 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] It is the day after the Cabient reshuffle and the traditional has been respected. The new cadres of the MPR who were appointed yesterday were at the People's Palace this morning for the traditional swearing-in ceremony. They were composed of two members of the Political Bureau, members of the Executive Council, a first president of the Supreme Court of Justice, an attorney general, state regional governors, a secretary of the Executive Council, and a deputy regional governor. The president took not less than 2 and 1/2 hours to receive these oaths of fidelity and commitment. There will be no break in the continuity of action of these organs since the newly appointed officials will be installed in their new functions on Monday.

ANGOLA

PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS CITES MILITARY 'RESERVES'

EA201540 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The president of the party and the republic, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, recently inspected the operational unit of the Presidential Battalion in Luanda and delivered a speech. The comrade president expressed satisfaction with the results that have been obtained and achieved by the combatants of that unit, particularly in the field of military training, political education, and the improvement of the combatants' living standard. He praised [words indistinct] the unit's initiative in trying on its own to solve and [words indistinct] problems.

As the comrade president stressed, his visit to the operational unit of the Presidential Battalion was aimed at detecting any unreported difficulties, analysing the concerns and [words indistinct] of our community. Some of the problems the military unit is faced with, supplies for example, are the result of the difficult economic and military situation presently facing the country. This situation has been brought about by internal and external factors, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said on the occasion. The (?current situation was also a result) of poor logistics in the armed forces, particularly at that special unit, which has very important specific missions: improving the logistics and [word indistinct] supplies and equipment to enable cadres to achieve constant improvement of organizational and fighting readiness so whenever order is disrupted, we may be able to fulfill our role.

The president of the party and the republic spent some time discussing the military situation facing the country and he stressed some reverses that we have sometimes suffered. He mentioned the kidnapping of foreign technicians of the [words indistinct] enterprise and the destruction of the second hydroelectric plant in the country at Lomaum by UNITA puppet gangs.

We sometimes suffer momentary reverses because we naturally have organizational flaws in the field of training, technical and political preparedness. We also have flaws in leadership and command and when these things happen, we, as leaders and military officers and chiefs, have food for thought, the supreme leader of the party and the nation said. He added that we would not admit defeat everytime we suffered momentary reverses. He said that we should rebuild our enthusiasm and our technical and human capability in order to give a vigorous response and reestablish the people's trust in the armed forces in the areas where we suffered reverses.

Having pointed out that our defense and security forces have always depended on the support and trust of the entire Angolan population since the first days of the liberation struggle, the comrade president said that we could not in any way betray the trust of the people who had given us heavy responsibilities. (?We must live up to the expectations) of this responsibility. It is in this context that I insist on the continuous need to improve our militant preparedness and readiness, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos stressed when concluding his speech made in Luanda a few days ago during a visit made to the operational unit of the Presidential Battalion.

CSSR DAILY DENIES REPORTS ON CAPTURED CITIZENS

LD171133 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 0830 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Under the headline "A Third of Captives Children" RUDE PRAVO today presents an extensive article on the report of the CSSR Foreign Ministry on the capture of the Czechoslovak citizens in the area of the Alto Catumbela industrial complex in the Angolan People's Republic. This is a group of 64 Czechoslovak citizens who were captured by the UNITA counterrevolutionary groups which are carrying out subversive actions in and central Angola against the lawful revolutionary government. An important fact is that the counterrevolutionaries also captured 21 children, 3 of whom are under 5, 8 between 6 and 10, and the others are over 10. According to the foreign trade corporation Polytechna, our citizens are working in Angola on the basis of the relevant agreement with the Angolan Government. Czechoslovakia started sending experts to this country in 1977, shortly after the overthrow of the colonial regime, in line with the appeals of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement requesting the industrially advanced countries to help developing countries overcome the consequences of colonial backwardness. RUDE PRAVO goes on to say that some Western press agencies took up the false assertion, originated by the counterrevolutionary organization UNITA, that the Czechoslovak citizens were allegedly armed. These assertions are not true. The Czechsolovak Foreign Ministry has immediately started taking steps to gain the release of all our citizens in cooperation with the Government of the Angolan People's Republic. Some governments, international organizations, the UN secretary general and the International Red Cross have been asked to help, says RUDE PRAVO in conclusion.

UNITA SAYS SEARCH THREATENS LIVES OF HOSTAGES

AB210805 Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, March 21 (AFP) -- Angola's South African-backed anti-government rebel movement UNITA warned here Sunday that the Luanda government's search for 64 Czechoslovaks and 20 Portuguese whom UNITA kidnapped on March 12 was putting their lives in danger.

In a communique, UNITA said that if there was a clash between the troops and rebels guarding the hostages, neither the government forces nor the Cuban soldiers with them "would get anyone." It called on Czechoslovakia and Portugal to make the Luanda government drop their pursuit.

UNITA said it was ready, for humanitarian reasons, to hand over to the International Red Cross the reported score of children among the hostages.

It would also swap "some" of the hostages for seven British mercenaries held by the Angolan Government since 1976.

Czechoslovak President Lubomir Strougal appealed last week to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, chairman of the Nonaligned Nations Movement, Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, chairman of the Organization of African Unity, and leaders of other countries to use their influence to obtain the release of the hostages.

The 64 people kidnapped were aid workers at an industrial complex at upper Catumbela, in the central province of Benguela.

MOZAMBIQUE

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS 19 MAR

EA191634 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The deputy minister of land reclamation and water resources of the Uzbek SSR, (Timur Kamalov), arrived in Maputo today on a visit to Mozambique. (Timur Kamalov), who is leading a Soviet delegation, will hold talks with the state secretariat for cotton on strengthening cooperation. During the visit, the Uzbek deputy minister will discuss with Mozambique officials ways of increasing cotton production in Nampula Province and the building of houses for local people.

He was met at Maputo international airport by the state secretary for cotton, Joao Ferreira.

COOPERATION DOCUMENTS SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

EA191636 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Yesterday in Maputo the Mozambique-Romanian joint commission's fifth session ended with the signing of documents aimed at broadening cooperation between the two countries. The delegation to the talks, which concerned agriculture, industry, foreign trade, banking, finance, and construction, were led by Minister of Finance Rui Baltasar Alves and Romanian Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Ion Tesu.

SOUTH AFRICA

RSA: 'NO ROLE TO PLAY' CONCERNING CSSR HOSTAGES

MB190945 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0830 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] REUTER news agency reports that South Africa has said it has no role to play in obtaining the release of 64 Czechoslovak citizens captured in southern Angola by the UNITA resistance movement, despite an appeal by the UN secretary general for South African assistance. A spokesman for Mr Perez de Cuellar said the secretary general had asked South Africa to assist on humanitarian grounds and at the request of the Czechoslovak Government. According to the REUTER report from Vienna, Austria, a spokesman for the South African Government said the release of the Czechoslovaks is a matter to be decided by UNITA and the Angolan Government in Luanda.

NEWSWEEK ITEM CALLED 'ASSORTMENT OF INACCURACIES'

MB180630 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Station commentary: "Unfounded Attacks"]

[Text] South African representatives abroad are not as often given the chance to hit back at false allegations made against the country by the media, pressure groups, and others with an axe to grind. External attacks on conditions and developments in the country, in the labor and constitutional fields in particular, usually stem from two points of departure: on the one hand, ignorance of the realities of South Africa's highly pluralistic population structure and, on the other, animosity towards South Africa regardless of the measure of knowledge. A case in point is the latest attack by the American weekly NEWSWEEK.

For what it is worth, the South African ambassador in the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, has lodged a strong letter of protest with the editor of the magazine. Indeed, the article presents a blatant misrepresentation of the republic's internal situation, and it consists of a jumbled assortment of inaccuracies. No attempt is made to portray the country's efforts to find solutions for its complex problems, and, what is more, a report from Washington says the journalist who compiled the article has not visited South Africa.

The fact is that South Africa is in a process of dramatic change. Dynamic development on the labor front has been going on particularly since 1979, when a new deal for the country's black and other nonwhite workers emerged. The South African Government has been carrying out the main proposals of the Wiehahn commission of inquiry into labor affairs: namely, the freedom of association for workers to join any union of their choice, the recognition and official registration of trade unions irrespective of racial composition, the abolition of historical job reservation on a racial basis also in mining and industry, apprentice training for workers of all races, and the desegregation of facilities in shops and factories.

Constitutionally, the future of South Africa -- its confederal destiny -- has come into sharper focus during the past year. The separate parts of a future dispensation are more clearly defined now, and there is discernable movement in creating the institutions through which they will function. There is action in catching up on both political and economic backlogs, and the separate aspirations and identities of the country's heterogeneous population are being catered for. What remains is the bringing together of the parts, the building of the proposed confederation of states that will join together the South African community of nations. That is the final indispensable element in the South African constitutional challenge, the challenge of accommodating peacefully it great diversity of peoples.

For many this process is too complex to understand, but in February two prominent Americans showed a great measure of perception, a perception that had grown out of a knowledge of the real circumstances. After wide-ranging discussions with a spectrum of South African leaders, the president of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, Dr (Floyd Riddick), said he had come to the conclusion that there was no simple solution to the political problems of South Africa. Those who are not familiar with the situation could neither appreciate nor understand it. A system of one-man, one-vote in a unitary South Africa, the one commonly proposed by outsiders, would lead to a situation similar to that in Zimbabwe. Clearly NEWSWEEK has no appreciation of the situation, for as American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker said: Anyone who would say there is no positive change going on in South Africa has utterly missed the boat.

SWAZILAND

PRIME MINISTER MABANDLA DISMISSED 20 MAR

MB201010 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister of Swaziland has been sacked. It is reported that Prime Minister Mabandla Dlamini has been relieved of his duties with immediate effect by the Ndlovokazi, the queen regent.

The move has been announced in a special edition of the GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. No reasons have been given for the dismissal, but it is thought Dlamini wanted to abolish the supreme council of state in Swaziland. Unconfirmed reports say he will be tried for treason.

Instructed To Vacate Office

MB211257 Mbabane Domestic Service Television in English 1120 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Following our interview with the prime minister, Prince Mabandla, last evening, in which he denied knowledge of his removal from office, he has now been formally instructed to vacate his office as prime minister. It was not immediately clear as to what steps he intended to take regarding his vacation of the government house.

MORE ON DISMISSAL DISPUTE; TROOPS AT LOBAMBA

MB210626 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 21 Mar 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] Prime Minster Prince Mabandla has been removed from office with effect from Friday, according to a GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. But in an interview with THE TIMES yesterday, the prime minister said he knew nothing of any dismissal. (See report below).

In an interview with STBC [Swaziland Television Broadcasting Corporation] later he was amazed by the fact that such a story had come out in the foreign media even though local people didn't know about it. "I don't know how such a thing happened. I would have expected whoever is responsible for publishing the gazette, if that person was self respecting, to have come to me and told me about it. This is the normal thing to do," he said. "I am myself asking what is going on? I am trying to find out if the royal family is the same as the one I have been serving. I am wondering who is at fault. I feel that if I had done something to offend, they would have called me to explain or at least take me to court. Even the queen did not call me. I cannot do anything until I have seen the gazette."

The prime minister's private secretary, Mr Paul Shabangu was quoted yesterday that as far as he was concerned he and the PM will be going to work as usual today. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE extraordinary, Volume Number XXI, dated Saturday March 19, states that the queen regent decided to terminate the prime minister's office after receiving the advice of the supreme council of state, Liqoqo. Legal notice number 19, published in the gazette extraordinary states that Prince Mabandla is being removed in terms of Section 17 of the Establishment of Parliament Order of 1978. The legal notice has a sub headline: "Termination of Office." It reads:

"In exercise of powers conferred by Section 71 of the Establishment of Parliament Order I, Dzeliwe, Ndlovukazi and queen regent of Swaziland hereby terminate with immediate effect the appointment of Mabandla F.N. Dlamini as prime minister of Swaziland."

A press statement prepared yesterday reads:

"The Ndlovukazi and queen regent of Swaziland wishes to announce that on the advice of the Liqoqo she has relieved Mabandla F.N. Dlamini of the post of prime minister of Swaziland with effect from 18th March, 1983. "In view of the imminent general elections, an acting prime minister will be announced shortly. Otherwise no major reshuffle of the Cabinet is anticipated."

An official announcement of the prime minister's dismissal was made yesterday afternoon by the governor of Lobamba, Mr Vusumuzi Bhembe in the royal residence. The announcement was made in the presence of the authorised person, Prince Sozisa; members of the National Council; the Liqoqo and senior members of the royal family. Cabinet ministers present were the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dmamini, the minister for justice, Mr Polycarp Dlamini, the minister of agriculture, Mr A.K. Hlophe and the minister for home affairs, Prince Gabheni.

The only princess present was Princess Mnengwase, the only direct sister of the late King Sobhuza II.

"This is a heavy function I am being asked to perform right now. It certainly is not a nice job," Mr Bhembe said before he made a taped announcement. "You were burdened when you were first installed," Mr. A.K. Hlophe said. After being advised on what words to use in the announcement by the minister for justice, Mr. Bhembe proceeded to make the taped announcement.

The first tape had to be cancelled because of a technical problem. He made a second tape and nothing came out because the batteries of the [Swaziland Broadcasting Service] tape recording machine had gone flat. An SBS official went out for some time to get new batteries and this time the announcement came through. Before the SBS official came with the new batteries, Prince Sozisa said: "They are doing it deliberately." The minister for justice said: "What...how can you come with flat batteries here. What is going on?"

The South African press agency reported earlier that Prince Mabandla wanted to abolish the Liqoqo and that he may be charged with high treason. A member of the Liqoqo who was approached by THE TIMES to confirm or deny this said: "You've got it, it's all there, publish it."

Other developments:

-- There was a marked military atmosphere in Lobamba yesterday with armed troops swarming around the royal residence.

-- It was understood that Liqoqo members Prince Mfanasibili and Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko who are being held on a charge under the sedition act will be released from custody today and the charge withdrawn.

ZIMBABWE

HARARE REPORTS KILLING OF FARM FAMILY 18 MAR

MB200623 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Dissidents have murdered a farmer, his wife, and two granddaughters in Nyamandhlovu in southwest Matabeleland. A government spokesman says Mr Stratford and his family were shot dead on Friday at their Secret Valley farm by a gang of six dissidents. Meanwhile, the president of the Commerical Farmer's Union, Mr (Sinclair), says his organisation will seek a meeting with military and civil authorities to discuss measures to protect its members. Mr (Sinclair) described the murder of the Stratford family as barbaric and savage in the eyes of humanity. Military operations against the bandits continue in Matabeleland.

Protection Measures Urged

AB200928 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 20 Mar 83

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Harare, March 20 (AFP) -- The leader of Zimbabwe's 5,000 white farmers says he will urge new measures to protect his members in the rebellion-torn southwest, following the killings of an elderly farmer and three of his family by anti-government dissidents. Jim Sinclair, president of the Commerical Farmers Union (CFU), last night expressed "shock and horror" at the deaths of 66-year-old Eric Straford, his wife and two granddaughters on their Nyamandhlovu farm 25 km (15 miles) northwest of Bulawayo Friday.

A government spokesman said six dissidents, as the renegade guerrillas who have held the southwest in a yearlong reign of terror are known, paraded the Stratfords before a "kangaroo court" of farmhands before shooting them execution-style in the heads with Mr Stratford's revolver.

Mr Sinclair said the CFU would "as a matter of utmost urgency, be seeking meetings with the civil and military authorities to discuss measures to protect the lives of its members." The statement from the farming leader followed a week of renewed violence by the rebels after a two-month crackdown by the Army on dissidents and their (?supporters) in which more than 1,000 black civilians were killed, according to numerous witness accounts.

In addition to the Stratford killings, dissidents last week kidnapped 77-year-old farmer Robert Dyer-Smith from his place 15 kms (ten miles) west of Bulawayo, attacked another farmstead in the same area, and engaged security forces in at least two clashes near the city, capital of the troubled Matabeleland Province. THE SUNDAY NEWS of Bulawayo reported today that police and Army had cargied the search for Mr Dyer-Smith's kidnappers into the western black townships of the city.

At least 30-40 white farmers and family members have died at the hands of the dissidents, renegade guerrillas formerly in the wartime forces of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo, since they began their marauding in March 1982 following Mr Nkomo's sacking from the Cabinet by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Farmers told Mr Mugabe at a special meeting in the small ranching center of Marula, between Bulawayo and the Botswana border, last September that they would begin leaving the land if his government could not protect them. Since then, the security situation has worsened, despite moves by the government to return weapons to the farmers that they had had to turn in to police after the guerrilla war against white rule ended in 1980. The farmers have also reestablished their "Agric-Alert" radio system linking isolated homesteads to each other and to police stations for rapid communications in case of attack.

The latest Army crackdown starting in January was preceded by the New Year's Eve killings of four white farmers, two children and a black security guard in two separate incidents in the Nyamandhlovu area.

Any move by the farmers to carry out their threat to pack up would represent a severe blow to Zimbabwe's economy. White large-scale agriculturalists produce more than three-quarters of Zimbabwe's food crops and meat, as well as the bulk of export crops such as tobacco and cotton.

Nkomo Condemns Killing

LD201115 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1041 GMT 20 Mar 83

[By Richard Savill, PA staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo today condemned the killing of the white schoolgirls and their grandparents in the south of his country. Mr Nkomo told the PRESS ASSOCIATION from the Heathrow Hotel where he is staying after fleeing to Britain: "I condemn any killings from wherever they come." He denounced the claim by the government's information director, Mr Justin Nyoka, that the killers were his supporters. "It is a stupid and silly thing to say. It does not help anybody to make such remarks. Who knows who they are -- they could be anyone. How does one come to conclusions?" he asked.

Mr Nkomo said in a statement that the killers arrived at the Stratford's home at 6 pm on Friday and were told by labourers that the family were "bad employers." They marched the couple out to face the workers who repeated the charges. The gang then took them back into the house, lined them up with their grandchildren and shot them with the family's own revolver.

Mr Nkomo has just been granted a three-week extension to his stay. He fled to Britain a week ago claiming that Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, was plotting to have him killed. Asked how long he planned to stay in Britain he answered: "Just let me rest -- it is Sunday today."

Bulawayo Areas Cordoned Off

MB210836 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Parts of Bulawayo's western suburbs were cordoned off early yesterday by security forces. An Army official said last night that a number of people are being questioned adding that there had been no incidents.

In addition to the four dissidents killed by security forces early last week, three are reported to have been killed a few kilometers outside Bulawayo along the Victoria Falls railway line. Meanwhile in Nyamadlovu, security forces are still hunting for the dissidents who murdered Mr Eric Stratford, his wife, and their two granddaughters.

MINISTER AT ZAPU RALLY CALLS FOR PARTY MERGER

MB210852 Harare Domstic Service In English 0400 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of water resources and development, Comrade Msipa, has called for an immediate merger of ZAPU and ZANU-PF in order to solve the country's current problems.

Addressing a ZAPU rally at Mount Pleasant shopping center yesterday, Comrade Msipa said the two major political parties must concentrate on those issues that unite them, rather than pay attention to affairs which divide them. He said there is need to look at the country's problems objectively and exert efforts to solve them. He told the gathering that there was need to chart a new course for the future to ensure peace and stability for all the people of Zimbabwe. The minister said the drought and the economic recession are enough problems for the people of this country, adding that those who have chosen to resort to acts of banditry have a cruelty that borders on insensitivity.

Comrade Msipa declared that he would not be part and parcel of any scheme to destroy Zimbabwe. He reminded his audience that the government policy of reconciliation earned Zimbabwe a good international image, and it accommodated the fears and aspirations of the victor and the vanquished. Comrade Msipa appealed to the nation to work for peace and unity so that the country's resources could be channeled toward the social economic development program.